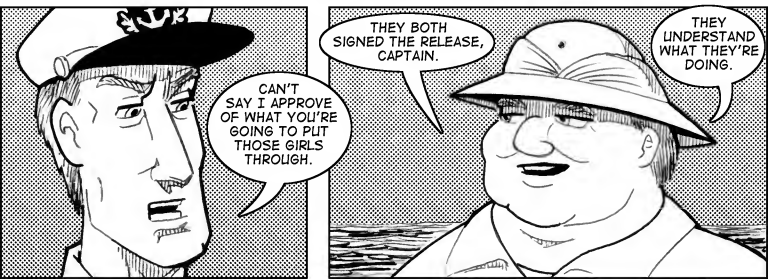


Fabulae ATROCES Fausti

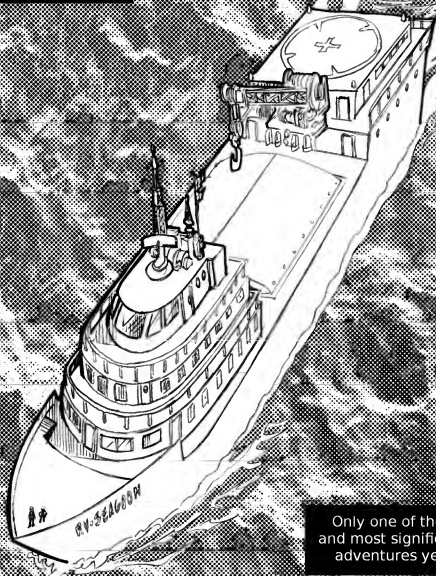


“Bait”

Iago Faustus
Erosarts



What is it that Professor
Eustace Turpentine is
proposing that so disturbs
Captain Drummingdale?

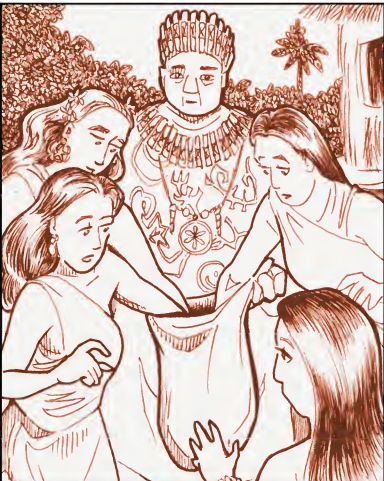
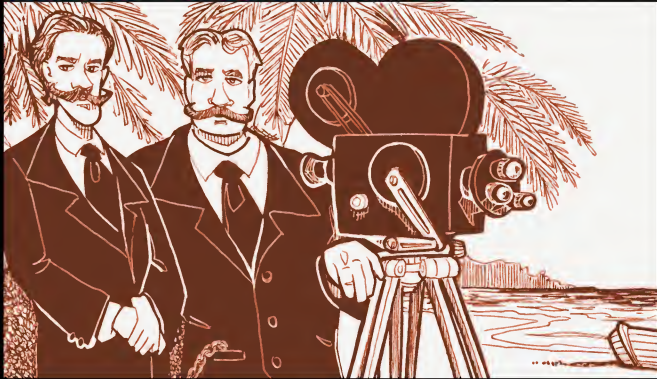


Only one of the strangest
and most significant scientific
adventures yet recorded.

And we document it here
for you for the first time!



In 1905, Italian brothers Enzo and Guido Scelleratini, following on sailors' rumors of a strange native cult on the South Seas island of Motofupo, went there with a movie camera in hopes of finding something unusual.



In spite of the fact that their rituals were rumored to include human sacrifice, the indigenous peoples proved friendly and allowed the Scelleratini brothers to film them.

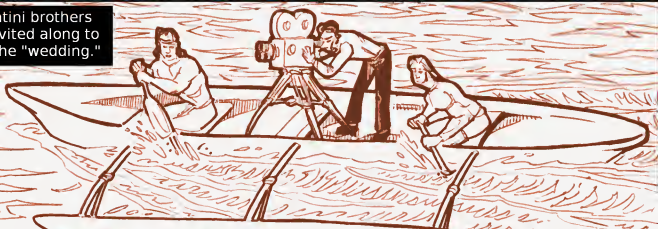


The first part of the ritual was a selection to pick specific young women to be given to a "God of the Deeps" in marriage.



According to observers, the young women so selected did not seem distressed. They seemed instead pleased and honored.

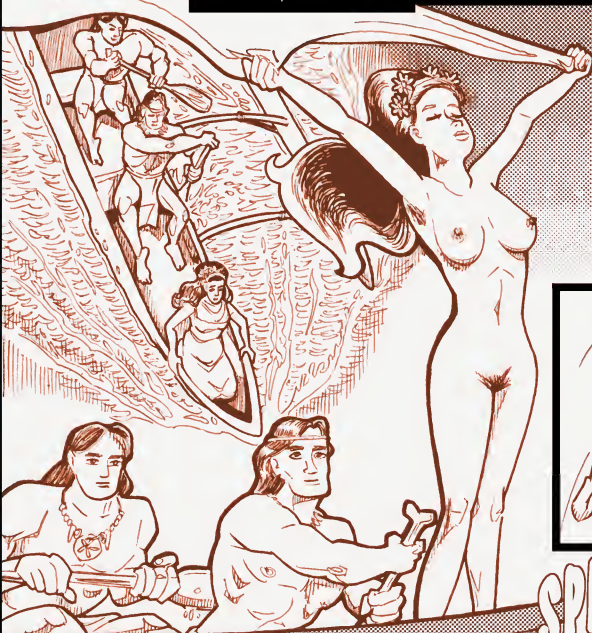
The Scelleratini brothers were even invited along to photograph the "wedding."



The people rowed out to a spot of ocean known to be over a deep oceanic trench.

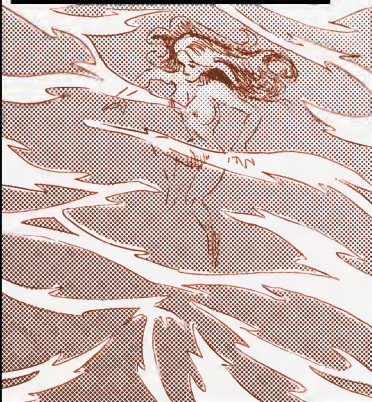
Those involved seemed to regard the entire proceeding as a blessed occasion.

The "victim" in this case seemed to be acting of her own free will.

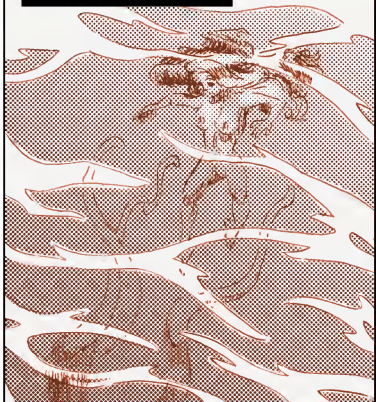


SPLASH!

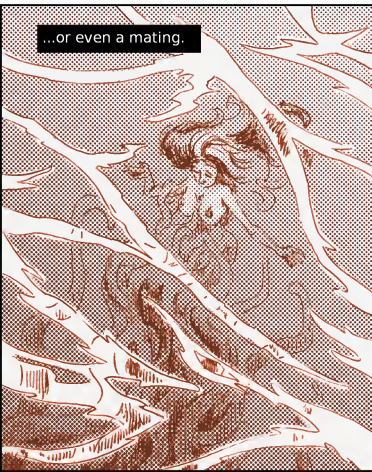
Primitive as the Scelleratini
brothers film technology was, it seemed
to capture something remarkable.



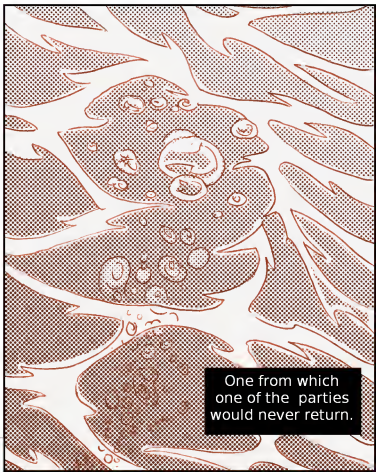
Something like an alien
encounter taking place...



...or even a mating.



One from which
one of the parties
would never return.

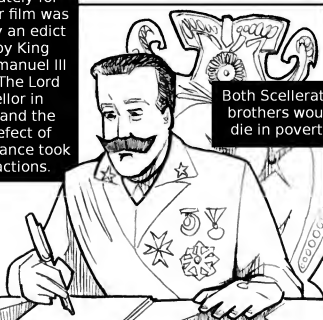


The Scelleratini brothers had hoped, on their return to Italy, to make a small fortune exhibiting this remarkable footage to the public.



Venite a vedere
una bellissima
ragazza dei
tropicci venir
mangiata viva
in un orribile
rituale pagano!

Unfortunately for them, their film was banned by an edict signed by King Victor Emmanuel III himself. The Lord Chancellor in England and the Chief Prefect of Police in France took similar actions.



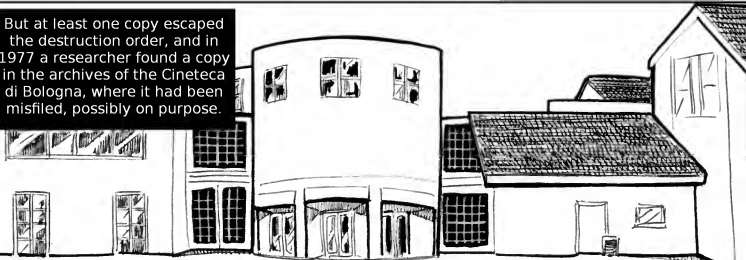
Both Scelleratini brothers would die in poverty.

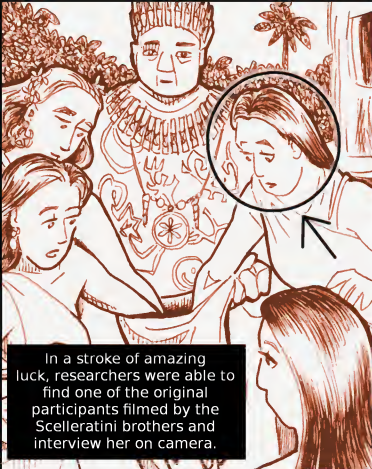


In 1927, the Fascist Grand Council would order all copies of the film destroyed as a menace to public morality.

What the Scelleratini brothers documented would pass out of memory...

But at least one copy escaped the destruction order, and in 1977 a researcher found a copy in the archives of the Cineteca di Bologna, where it had been misfiled, possibly on purpose.





In a stroke of amazing luck, researchers were able to find one of the original participants filmed by the Scelleratini brothers and interview her on camera.



APAKAH ADA GADIS YANG TAKUT TERPILIH?

Were any of the girls afraid of being chosen?

Tidak ada yang takut. Kami semua ingin dipilih.

No one was afraid.
We all wanted to be chosen.




Ketapi sembilan belas tahun, sang dewa akan datang dari kedalaman. Jika kami memberikan pengantin untuknya, ia akan memberkati para penduduk dengan kesehatan yang baik dan ikan yang melimpah.

Every nineteen years the god would come from the depths. If we gave him brides, he would bless our people with good health and abundant fish.



Dewa dari kedalaman akan mencintai pengantinya dengan cinta yang jauh melebihi cinta yang dapat diberikan pria mana pun kepada seorang wanita. Ini membuktikan layak untuk dilakukan, sekalipun sang dewa akan memakanmu.

The god of the depths would love his brides with a love far surpassing that which any man could show a woman. That made it worthwhile, even if he would eat you.



I SUPPOSE
I CAN UNDERSTAND
YOUR INTEREST IN...
UNUSUAL EXPERI-
ENCES BUT STILL,
THIS WOULD BE
YOUR LAST SUCH
EXPERIENCE.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

BUT PERHAPS
INSTEAD OF A LONG
STRING OF EXPERIENCES,
A STRING THAT'S JUST GOING
TO DIMINISH AS I GET OLDER
AND OLDER, PERHAPS ONE
SHOULD HAVE ONE
EXPERIENCE THAT
HAS NO PARALLEL.

IT SORT OF
GETS ME HOT
JUST THINKING
ABOUT IT.



SERIOUSLY,
AREN'T YOU
AFRAID?

I HAVE
SOMETHING
TO MAKE THE FEAR
GO AWAY. HAVE
YOU HEARD OF THE
ROMAN POET
LUCRETIUS?

respice item quam nil
ad nos ante acta vetustas
temporis aeterni fuerit,
quam nascimur ante.
hoc igitur speculum
nobis natura futuri
temporis exponit
post mortem denique nostram.

HE EXPLAINS THAT WE DIDN'T EXIST FOR AN
ETERNITY BEFORE BEING BORN, AND THAT WASN'T BAD.
SO WHY SHOULD IT BE BAD ONCE WE STOP EXISTING?

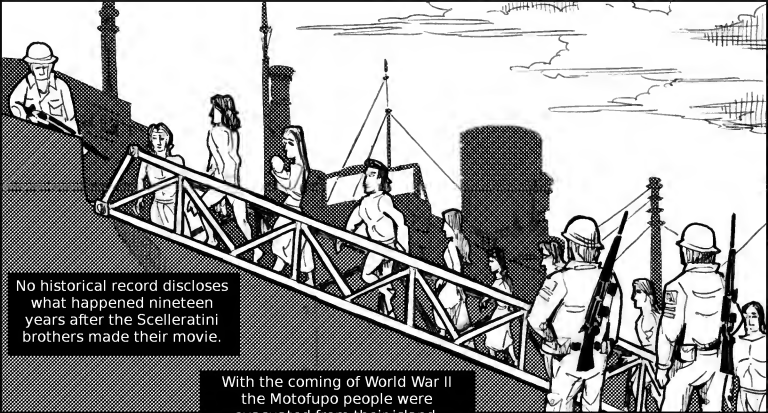


AND
YOU BUY
THAT?

IT'S WHAT DAVID HUME
TOLD JAMES BOSWELL
AS HUME WAS
WASTING AWAY,
ABOUT TO DIE.
BUT HUME WAS
CALM, AND EVEN
TOLD JOKES.

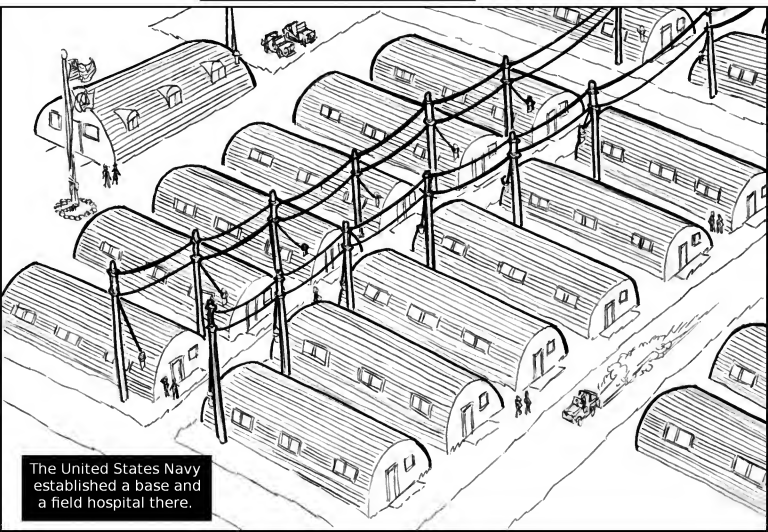
FROM BOSWELL'S
ACCOUNT: "I ASKED HIM IF THE
THOUGHT OF ANNIHILATION NEVER GAVE
HIM ANY UNEASINESS. HE SAID NOT THE
LEAST; NO MORE THAN THE THOUGHT
THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN, AS
LUCRETIUS OBSERVES."





No historical record discloses what happened nineteen years after the Scelleratini brothers made their movie.

With the coming of World War II the Motofupo people were evacuated from their island.



The United States Navy established a base and a field hospital there.


And the presence of a U.S. hospital means U.S. Navy nurses. We were able to interview one of them.






THE SHORE PATROL WOULD
CLOSE THE BEACH OFF ONCE
A WEEK JUST FOR US NURSES.

BEACH
STRICTLY
OFF LIMITS
TO ALL
MALE
PERSONNEL



SINCE IT WAS ONLY WOMEN WE
DIDN'T BOTHER PUTTING ON
BATHING SUITS. IT WAS WONDERFUL
TO BE OUT IN THE WATER LIKE THAT.



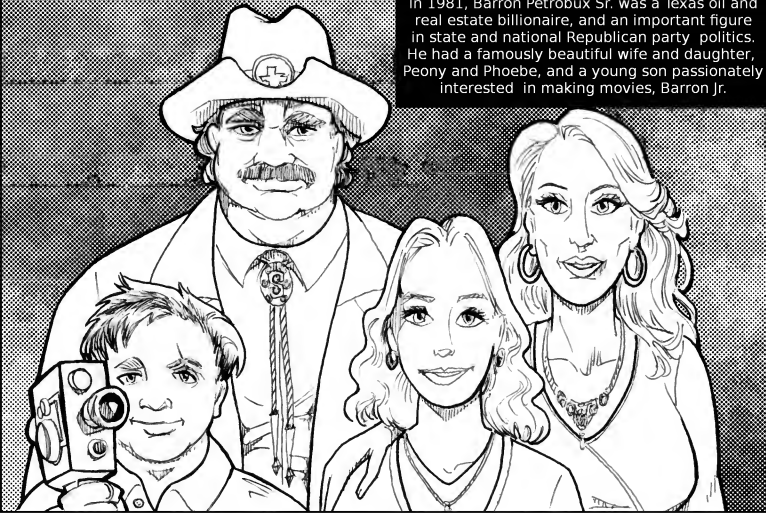
BUT
THEN THE
DISAPPEARANCES
BEGAN. THIS
WAS IN 1943. ONE
OF THEM WAS MY
CABINMATE, WILLA
CONGERMAN.

SHE JUST WENT
SWIMMING ONE
DAY AND...
DISAPPEARED.
SHE WAS A REALLY
STRONG SWIMMER
AND IT WAS A
PERFECTLY CALM
DAY WITH NO TIDES.
NO ONE HEARD HER
CALL IN DISTRESS.

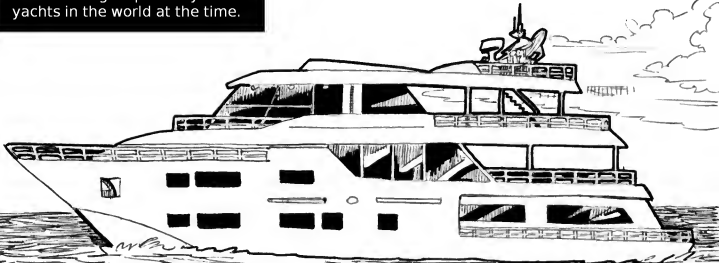


SOME SAID IT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN A CRAMP, BUT NO
ONE EVER FOUND A BODY.

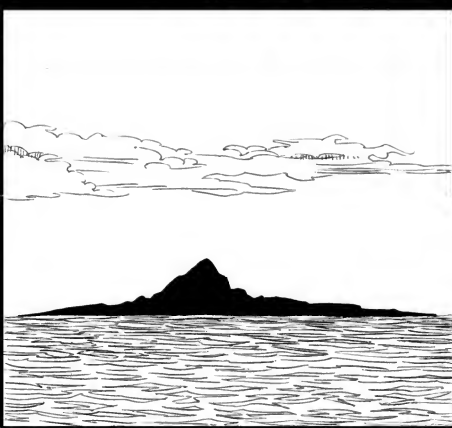
In 1981, Barron Petrobux Sr. was a Texas oil and real estate billionaire, and an important figure in state and national Republican party politics. He had a famously beautiful wife and daughter, Peony and Phoebe, and a young son passionately interested in making movies, Barron Jr.

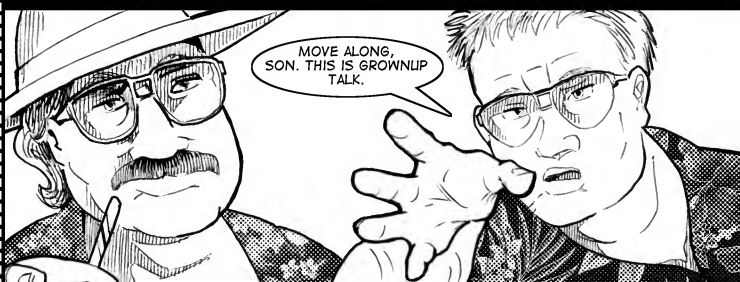
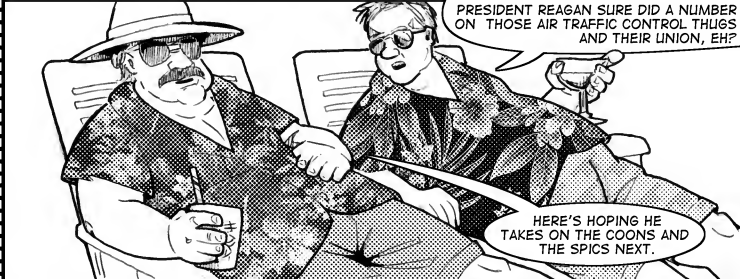


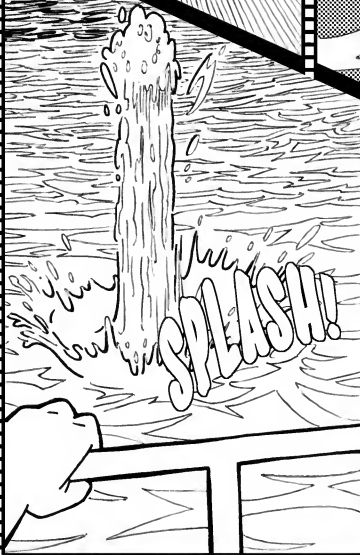
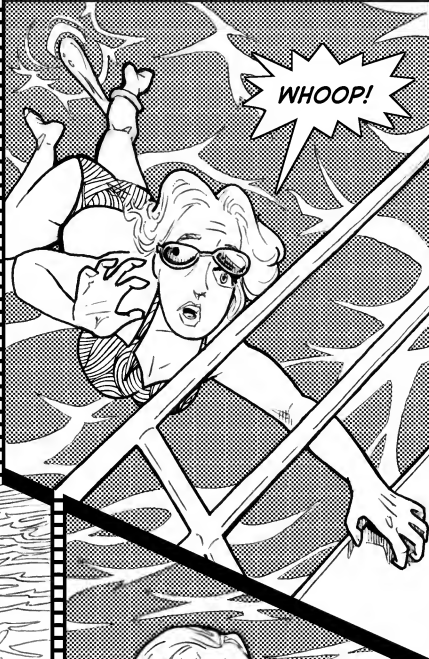
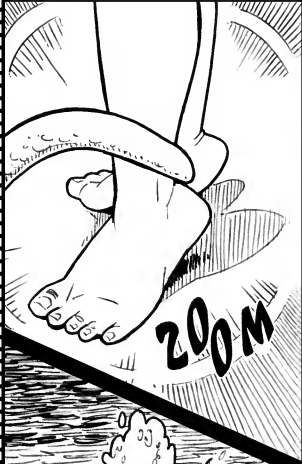
He was also the proud owner of one of the largest privately owned yachts in the world at the time.

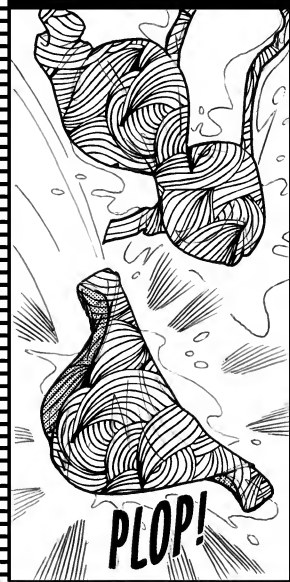
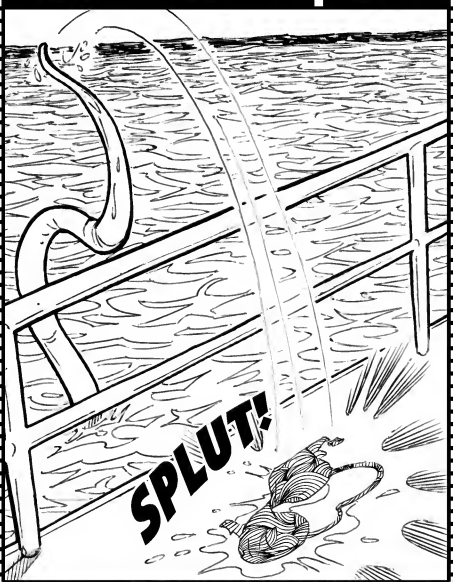
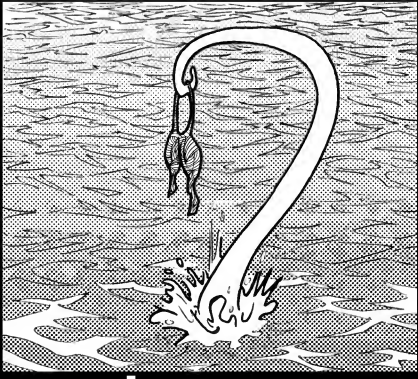


The beautiful waters and beaches around Motofupo had been declared a restricted zone by the U.S. Navy, but exceptions would be made for a man of Petrobux's political influence.











MY BABY!

MY BABY!

GOD
DAMMIT!



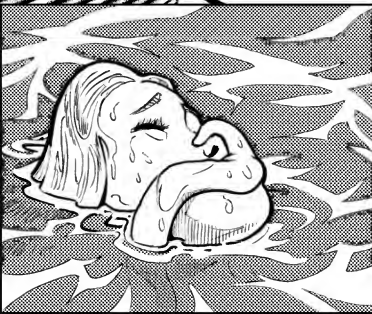
OH, GOD,
OH, GOD!

KILL
THAT
THING!

GET
IT!

YES, MR.
PETROBUX!

I'M
GETTING
MY GUN!

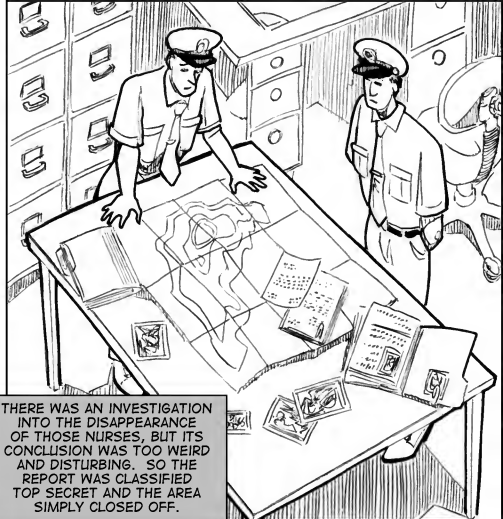




Capt. Carson MacMurdie, USN, Ret.

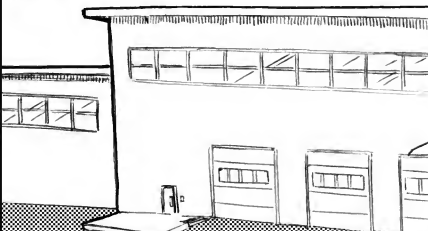


WELL, IT
WAS A FUCKUP,
THAT'S WHAT
IT WAS.



THERE WAS AN INVESTIGATION
INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE
OF THOSE NURSES, BUT ITS
CONCLUSION WAS TOO WEIRD
AND DISTURBING. SO THE
REPORT WAS CLASSIFIED
TOP SECRET AND THE AREA
SIMPLY CLOSED OFF.

BY 38 YEARS LATER EVERYONE HAD FORGOTTEN
WHY THE AREA WAS CLOSED, AND THE REPORT
WAS BURIED DEEP IN SOME NAVY ARCHIVE.



ANYONE CONNECTED WITH THE INVESTIGATION
HAD DIED OR MOVED ON. NOBODY BOTHERED TO
GO BACK TO THE RECORDS AND CHECK.

SO WHEN MR. RICH AND
POWERFUL SHOWS UP
AND SAYS HE WANTS TO
YACHT IN THOSE WATERS,
THE NAVY JUST SAYS
"YES, SIR" AND GIVES
HIM A PERMIT.

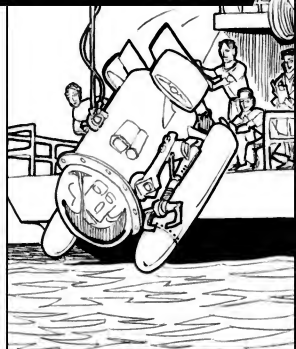


TOO BAD
ABOUT THE POOR
GIRL...

The Navy searched the waters around the spot of Phoebe Petrobux's disappearance but could find nothing.

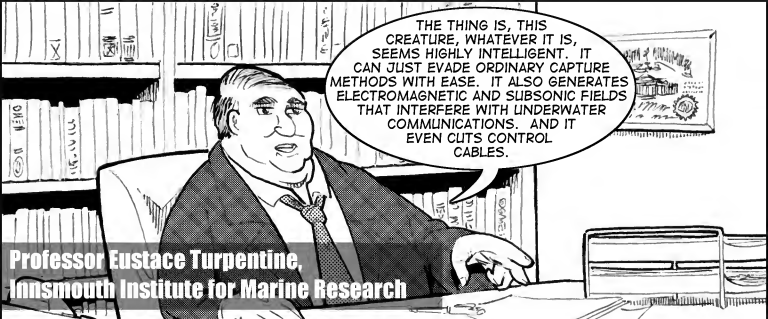
A bereaved Barron Petrobux set aside a large part of his wealth to create a foundation to study and attempt to capture whatever creature took away his daughter.

At the next 19 year cycle, in 2000, a team of scientists attempted to find the creature when it was expected to rise again.



The results of their research were inconclusive and frustrating.





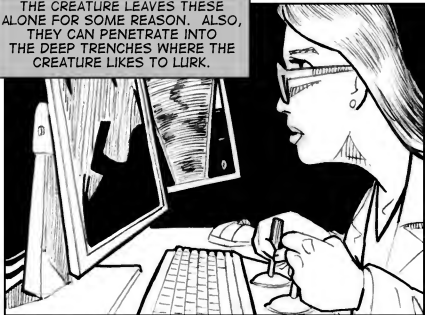
THE THING IS, THIS CREATURE, WHATEVER IT IS, SEEMS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT. IT CAN JUST EVADE ORDINARY CAPTURE METHODS WITH EASE. IT ALSO GENERATES ELECTROMAGNETIC AND SUBSONIC FIELDS THAT INTERFERE WITH UNDERWATER COMMUNICATIONS. AND IT EVEN CUTS CONTROL CABLES.

**Professor Eustace Turpentine,
Innsmouth Institute for Marine Research**

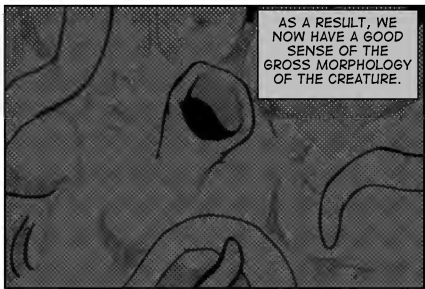
BUT RECENTLY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HAS ADVANCED TO THE POINT WHERE WE CAN MAKE EFFECTIVE *AUTONOMOUS* UNDERWATER DRONES.



THE CREATURE LEAVES THESE ALONE FOR SOME REASON. ALSO, THEY CAN PENETRATE INTO THE DEEP TRENCHES WHERE THE CREATURE LIKES TO LURK.



AS A RESULT, WE NOW HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF THE GROSS MORPHOLOGY OF THE CREATURE.



SO I SUPPOSE
THIS IS ACTUALLY A
SPECIALIZED FEEDING
ORIFICE.

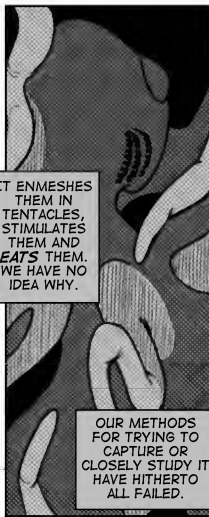
WHEN YOU'VE
ELIMINATED ALL THE OTHER
POSSIBILITIES, WHAT REMAINS,
HOWEVER IMPLAUSIBLE...



COMBINING WHAT WE KNOW FROM
THE NATIVE FOLKLORE, OBSERVED
BEHAVIOR, AND MORPHOLOGY, WE
SEEM COMPELLED TO CONCLUDE
THAT EVERY NINETEEN YEARS THIS
CREATURE COMES NEAR THE SURFACE
AND WANTS TO EAT YOUNG WOMEN.



IT ENMESHEs
THEM IN
TENTACLES,
STIMULATES
THEM AND
EATS THEM.
WE HAVE NO
IDEA WHY.



OUR METHODS
FOR TRYING TO
CAPTURE OR
CLOSELY STUDY IT
HAVE HITHERTO
ALL FAILED.

WE HAVE BEEN
PUSHED TO THE CONCLUSION
THAT IF YOU WANT TO HOOK
A FISH, YOU HAVE TO
HAVE... BAIT.





THE TRUTH IS
I'M FACING A LIFETIME OF
ASKING "DO YOU WANT
FRIES WITH THAT?"

Daphne Bosselseg,
prospective subject.

NO ONE WITH MONEY
WANTS TO FUND
KNOWLEDGE
ANYMORE.
THEY ALL WANT
UNIVERSITIES THAT
DO NOTHING BUT
MAKE A COMPLIANT
CORPORATE
WORKFORCE.



BUT NOW I
HAVE A CHANCE AT
SOMETHING.

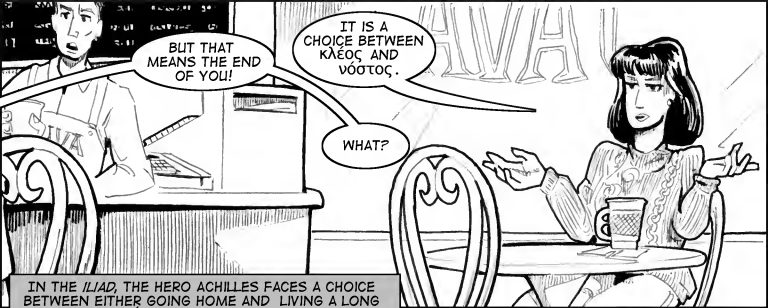
IF I CAN'T **WRITE**
PART OF THE HISTORY OF
SCIENCE, THEN PERHAPS I CAN
BE PART OF THE HISTORY
OF SCIENCE.



I WROTE AN AWARD WINNING
PH.D. DISSERTATION ON THE
HISTORY OF SCIENCE. "ONE OF
THE BEST OF YOUR GENERATION,"
MY ADVISORS TOLD ME.



BUT THANKS TO YAHOO
STATE LEGISLATORS AND
ASSHOLE BILLIONAIRES,
THERE'S NO FUNDING
FOR THAT ANYMORE.



BUT THAT
MEANS THE END
OF YOU!!

IT IS A
CHOICE BETWEEN
ΚΛΕΟΣ AND
VŌOTOS.

WHAT?

IN THE *ILIAD*, THE HERO ACHILLES FACES A CHOICE
BETWEEN EITHER GOING HOME AND LIVING A LONG
LIFE - THAT'S VŌOTOS - OR STAYING TO FIGHT AND
LIVING A SHORT BUT GLORIOUS LIFE - THAT'S ΚΛΕΟΣ.

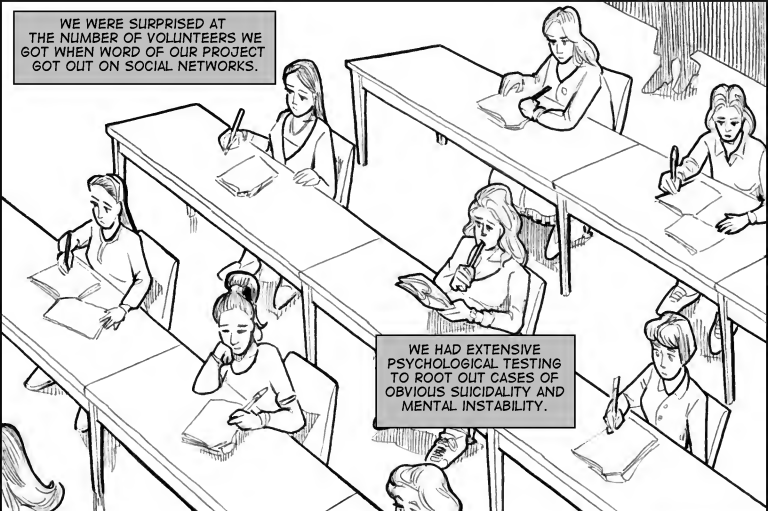


GIVEN THE
CHOICE BETWEEN
A LIFETIME AS A
CORPORATE DRONE
AFTER WHICH I SHALL
BE FORGOTTEN, OR
BEING PART OF
SOMETHING THAT
WILL BE IN HISTORY
BOOKS FOR CENTURIES,
THE RIGHT ANSWER
SEEMS OBVIOUS.



AT LEAST IT
DOES TO ME.

WE WERE SURPRISED AT
THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WE
GOT WHEN WORD OF OUR PROJECT
GOT OUT ON SOCIAL NETWORKS.



WE HAD EXTENSIVE
PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING
TO ROOT OUT CASES OF
OBVIOUS SUICIDALITY AND
MENTAL INSTABILITY.

THERE WERE SOME LEGAL ISSUES, OF COURSE,
BUT OUR PHILANTHROPIC SPONSOR IS WELL
CONNECTED AND FOUND WAYS
TO DEAL WITH THEM.



THERE WAS RIGOROUS
MEDICAL SCREENING.





WE DON'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT "NON SUICIDALITY." ISN'T THIS A SORT OF SUICIDE MISSION BY DEFINITION?

NO.

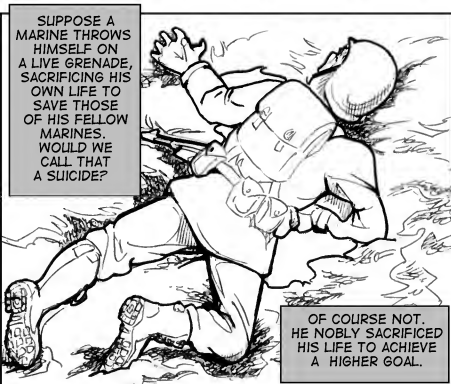
**Harvey Eligos, I.D., Ph.D.,
legal psychologist and consultant.**



TO BE **SUICIDAL** MEANS WANTING TO END ONE'S LIFE, AND THAT'S WHAT THE TESTING ON THIS PROJECT WAS MEANT TO SCREEN OUT.

ACCEPTING THE END OF ONE'S LIFE AS A SIDE EFFECT OF ACHIEVING A HIGHER GOAL, THAT'S NOT SUICIDE.

WE STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.



SUPPOSE A MARINE THROWS HIMSELF ON A LIVE GRENADE, SACRIFICING HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE THOSE OF HIS FELLOW MARINES. WOULD WE CALL THAT A SUICIDE?

OF COURSE NOT. HE NOBLY SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER GOAL.



THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SUBJECTS INTERESTED IN THE HIGHER GOAL OF ADVANCING SCIENCE, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

THOSE WHO GOT
THROUGH THE INITIAL
ROUNDS OF THE PROCESS
WENT THROUGH A
SIMULATION TEST.

WE DON'T WANT
SUBJECTS WHO
WILL PANIC AND
STRUGGLE UNDER
FIELD CONDITIONS.

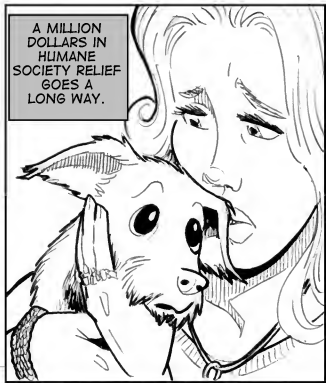
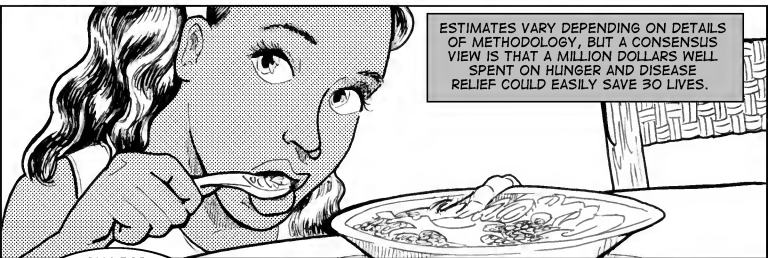


EVENTUALLY WE WERE DOWN TO TWO CANDIDATES, ONE TO SERVE IN THE PRINCIPAL ATTEMPT AND THE SECOND AS AN ALTERNATE.

UH, HI!

HOW DO YOU DO.

WE HAD THEM SIGN AGREEMENTS OF VARIOUS KINDS: CONSENTS TO THE PROCEDURE, AGREEMENTS TO PROMINENT MENTION IN ALL PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THE PROJECT, AND ALSO CONTRACTS WITH COMPENSATION OF A SORT: A CHARITY OF EACH'S CHOOSING WOULD GET A CONTRIBUTION OF \$1,000,000 UPON EACH'S COMPLETION OF HER...CONTRIBUTION.



EFFECTIVE
ALTRUISM?
APPALLING!

HERE WE SEE THE BITTER
FRUITS OF A CENTURY OF
CONSUMER CULTURE
AND DECADES OF
ESCALATING
ECONOMIC
INEQUALITY.

Christa Marxalot,
Professor of Applied Ethics.

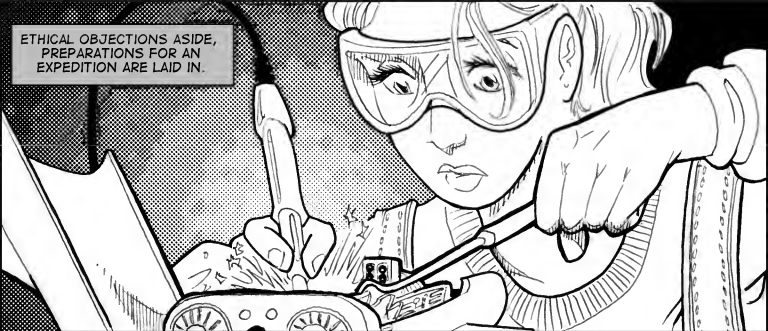
YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE SUCH A BLEAK SENSE OF
THEIR OWN FUTURES THAT THE BEST THEY
CAN CONCEIVE OF FOR THEMSELVES IS TO TRY
TO GET A GOOD PRICE SELLING THEMSELVES
AS **PLAYTHINGS** FOR SOME BILLIONAIRE.

HAVE
WE NO
DECENCY
ANYMORE?
NO SENSE
OF HUMAN
DIGNITY OR
THE VALUE
OF HUMAN
LIFE?

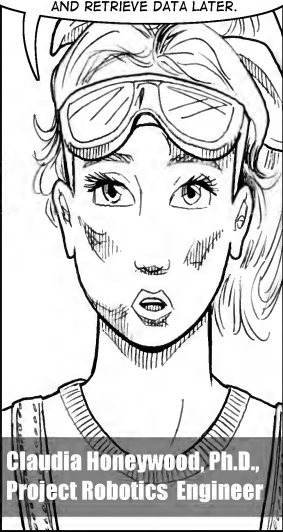
ARE YOU
PROPOSING TO RETIRE TO
LET A YOUNGER ACADEMIC
MOVE UP THE
LADDER?

ARE YOU
INSANE?

ETHICAL OBJECTIONS ASIDE,
PREPARATIONS FOR AN
EXPEDITION ARE LAID IN.



THE CREATURE WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO BLOCK COMMUNICATIONS WITH OUR EXPEDITION SHIP, BUT WE THINK A TIGHTLY FOCUSED BEAM FROM OUR SUBJECTS TO A SUBMERSIBLE MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. WE CAN CAPTURE AND RETRIEVE DATA LATER.



**Claudia Honeywood, Ph.D.,
Project Robotics Engineer**



OKAY, LADIES.
SO ONE OF YOU AT LEAST
IS GOING TO BE TALKING
TO THIS.

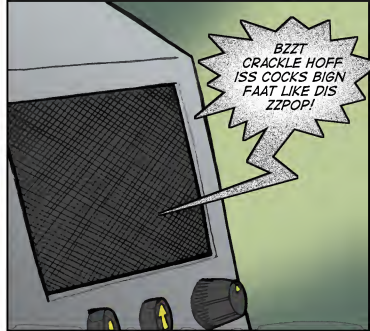
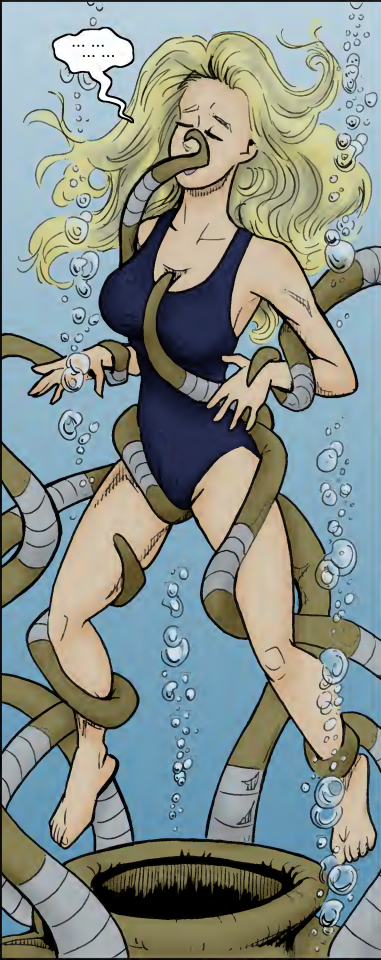
OOH!
IT'S SO
CUTE!

THIS SENSOR WILL TRANSMIT
BIOMETRICS. IT WILL ALSO SCAN
YOUR BRAIN'S SPEECH CENTER
AND ALLOW YOU TO PROVIDE
SOME NARRATION OF
YOUR EXPERIENCES.



I REALLY
WANT TO TRY
THAT...

YOU WILL.
WE NEED
TESTING.



OF COURSE,
WE HAVE OUR **BAIT**, BUT
YOU CAN'T JUST STICK A
HOOK THROUGH THIS
BAIT, HEH HEH.

SO WE
HAVE A MORE ELEGANT
SOLUTION.

**Hiram Worthinglock, assistant
to Professor Turpentine.**

THIS CAPSULE CONTAINS
NANO SENSORS AND
A TINY BUT VERY
POWERFUL
EXPLOSIVE
CHARGE WRAPPED
IN ULTRA-STRONG
MEMBRANES.

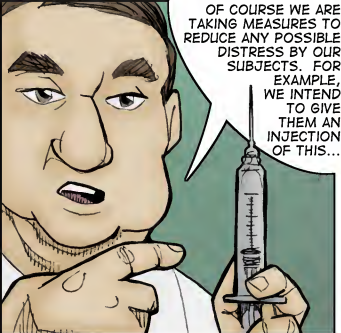
THE CAPSULE'S SENSORS ARE PROGRAMMED
TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHEMICAL CHANGES IN
THE CAPSULE'S ENVIRONMENT, AS WE CAN
SEE BY DROPPING IT IN THIS TANK...

...AND THEN
INDUCING A CHEMICAL
CHANGE.

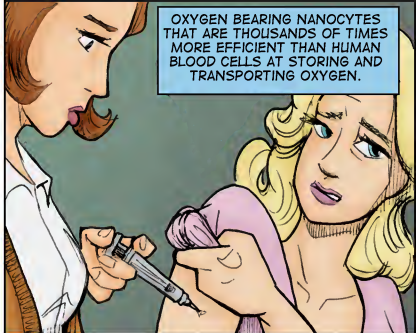
YOU MIGHT
WANT TO BACK
UP A BIT.

ploop!

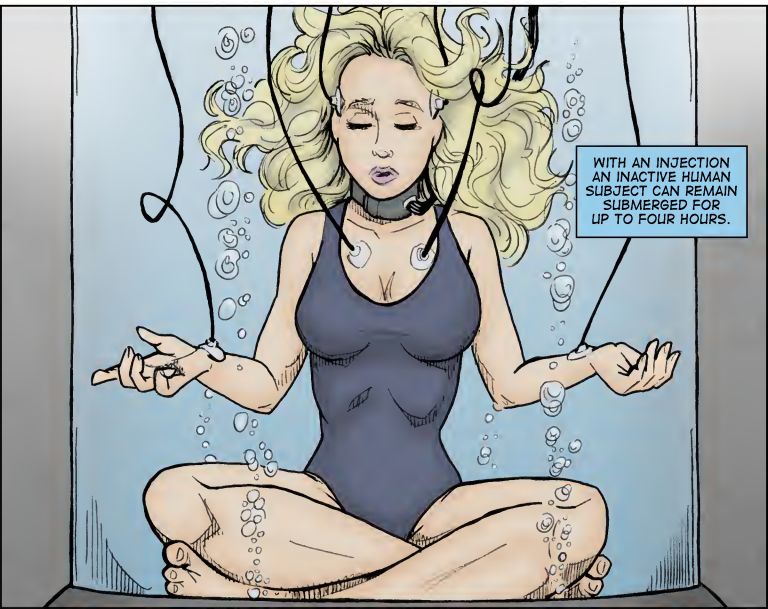




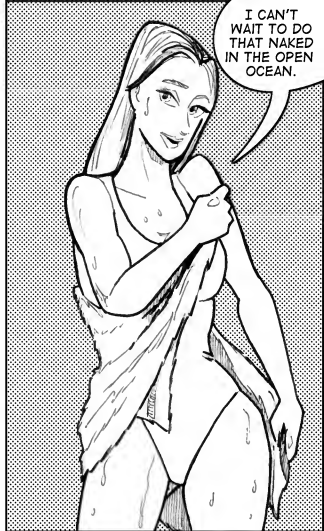
OF COURSE WE ARE
TAKING MEASURES TO
REDUCE ANY POSSIBLE
DISTRESS BY OUR
SUBJECTS. FOR
EXAMPLE, WE INTEND
TO GIVE
THEM AN
INJECTION
OF THIS...



OXYGEN BEARING NANOCYTES
THAT ARE THOUSANDS OF TIMES
MORE EFFICIENT THAN HUMAN
BLOOD CELLS AT STORING AND
TRANSPORTING OXYGEN.



WITH AN INJECTION
AN INACTIVE HUMAN
SUBJECT CAN REMAIN
SUBMERGED FOR
UP TO FOUR HOURS.



NONE OF US HAS THE CHOICE AS TO WHETHER TO DIE. WE CAN ONLY MAKE IT SOONER, OR MAYBE JUST A LITTLE LATER.





GATE
37

At long last the preparations were made. The volunteers boarded a flight for Southeast Asia...



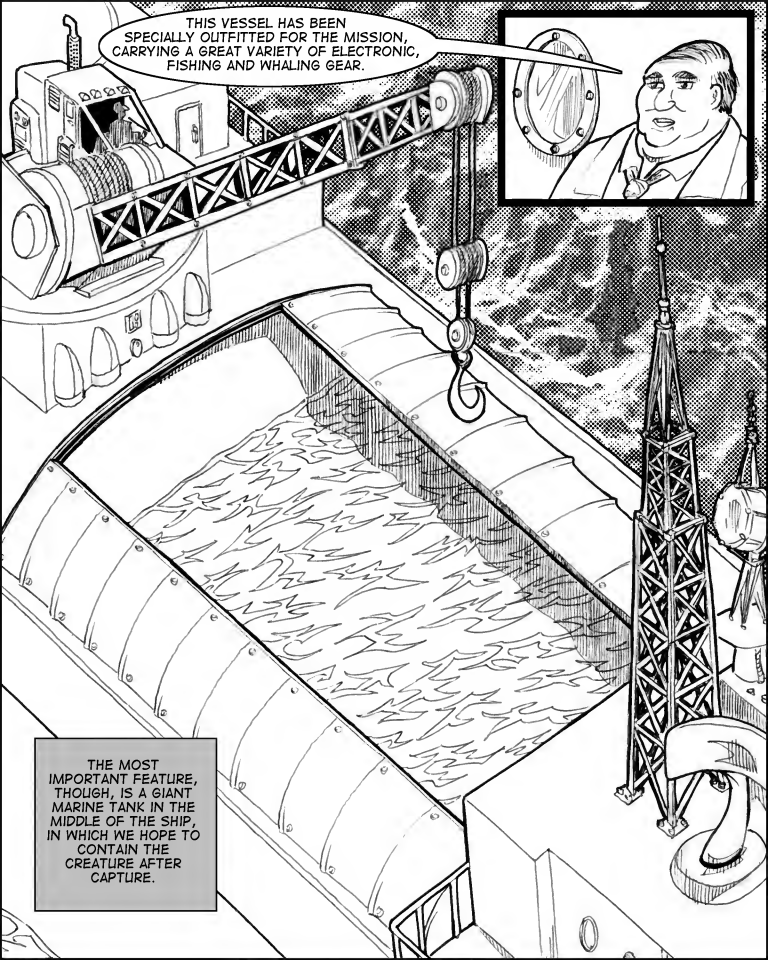
The benefactor behind the exhibition arranged for them to travel first class.



Though most of the other specialists on the exhibition had to travel in coach.



After arrival in Surabaya, volunteers and crew board the research vessel *RV Seagoon* for their venture in the south seas.



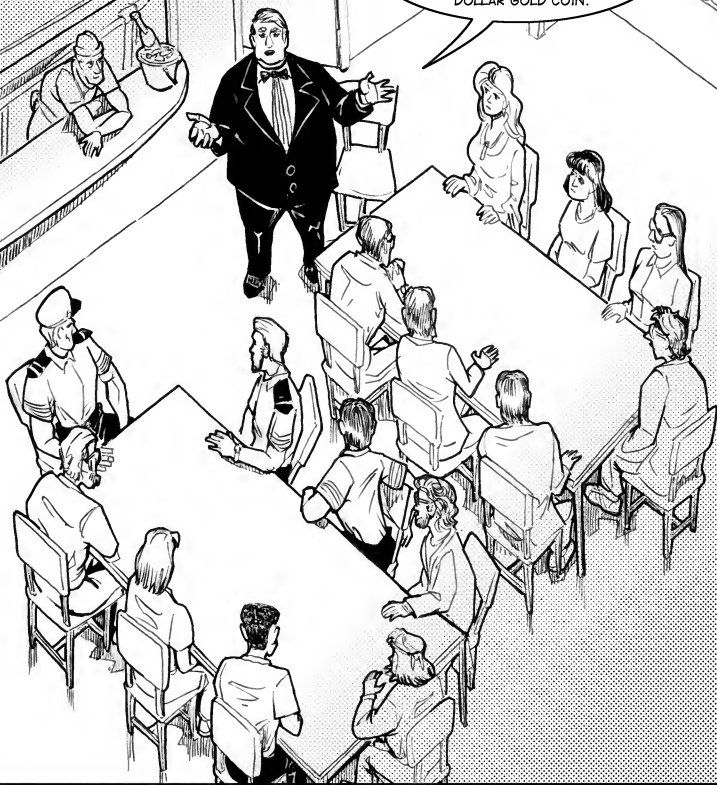
THIS VESSEL HAS BEEN
SPECIALLY OUTFITTED FOR THE MISSION,
CARRYING A GREAT VARIETY OF ELECTRONIC,
FISHING AND WHALING GEAR.



THE MOST
IMPORTANT FEATURE,
THOUGH, IS A GIANT
MARINE TANK IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE SHIP,
IN WHICH WE HOPE TO
CONTAIN THE
CREATURE AFTER
CAPTURE.

As the RV Seagoon approaches the island of Motofupo, there is a dramatic moment.

ALRIGHT PEOPLE,
NOW COMES THE MOMENT WHEN
WE DECIDE. WE ARE GOING TO
DETERMINE WHICH OF OUR BRAVE
VOLUNTEERS GOES FIRST. WE
SHALL FLIP THIS TWENTY
DOLLAR GOLD COIN.



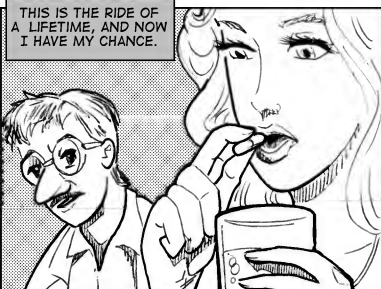




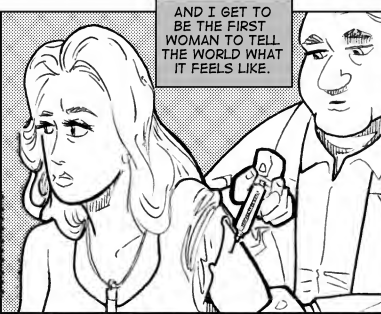
GO THROUGH WITH
IT? OF COURSE I'M GOING
THROUGH WITH IT!



THIS IS THE RIDE OF
A LIFETIME, AND NOW
I HAVE MY CHANCE.

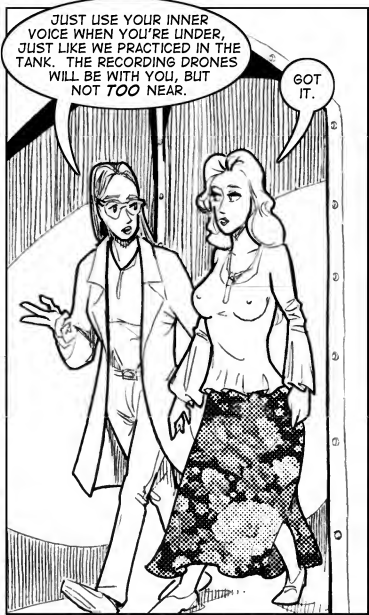


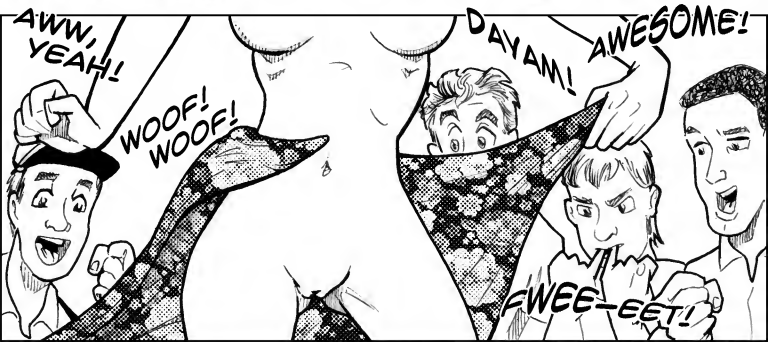
AND I GET TO
BE THE FIRST
WOMAN TO TELL
THE WORLD WHAT
IT FEELS LIKE.



JUST USE YOUR INNER
VOICE WHEN YOU'RE UNDER,
JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED IN THE
TANK. THE RECORDING DRONES
WILL BE WITH YOU, BUT
NOT TOO NEAR.

GOT
IT.





There doesn't seem
to be much hesitation in
this moment of truth.

BABY!

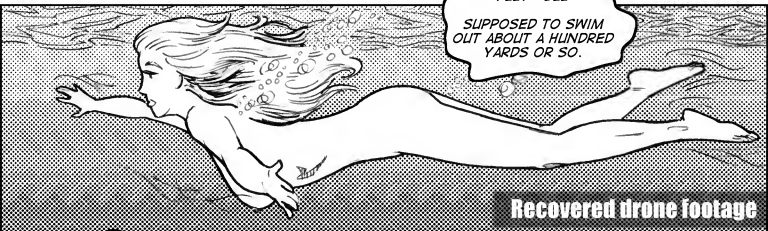
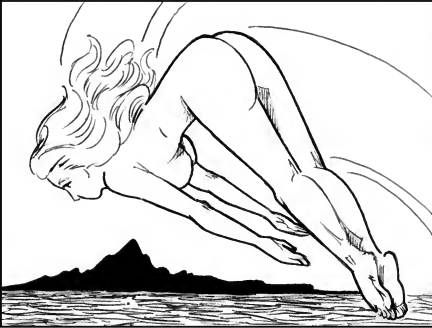
YOWZA!

YEAH!

WOOO!

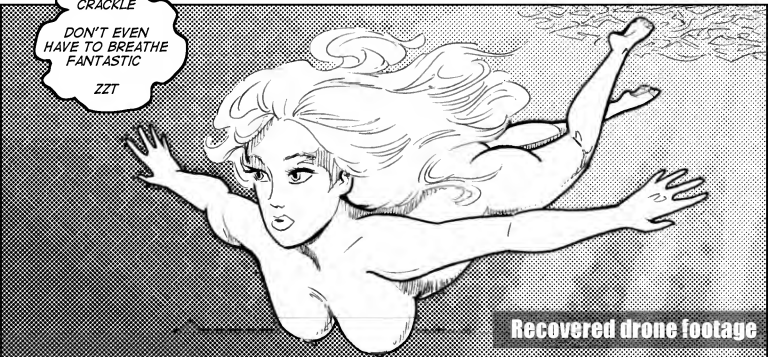
HUZZAH!





FZZT BZZ
SUPPOSED TO SWIM
OUT ABOUT A HUNDRED
YARDS OR SO.

Recovered drone footage



CRACKLE
DON'T EVEN
HAVE TO BREATHE
FANTASTIC
ZZT

Recovered drone footage

RRRZZ...

SO PEACEFUL
AND CALM...

POP!

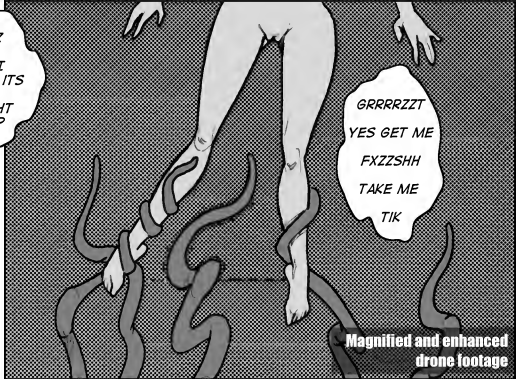


Recovered drone footage



ZZZ
OH I
THINK ITS
FSSHT
POP

Drone footage magnified
and enhanced



GRRRRZZT
YES GET ME
FXZZSHH
TAKE ME
TIK

Magnified and enhanced
drone footage



YESSZZT...
SLICK ME...
SKREEEEE

Magnified and enhanced
drone footage



Magnified and enhanced
drone footage

...MLPMH...

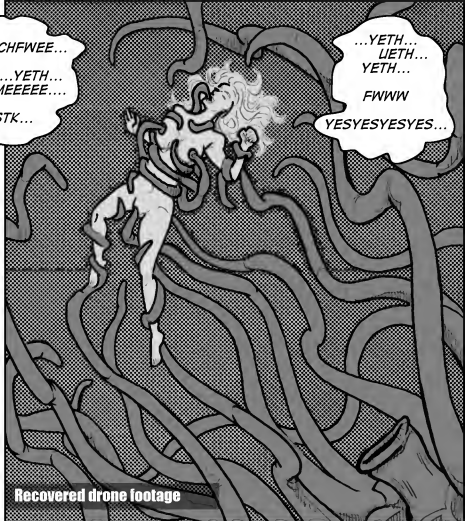


...ZZSCHFWEE...

YETH...YETH...
FLG MEEEEEE....

STK...

Magnified and enhanced
drone footage



...YETH...
UETH...
YETH...

FWWW

YESYESYESYES...

Recovered drone footage



...YETH...
OH EAT ME
PLEASE...
YES...

ZZT

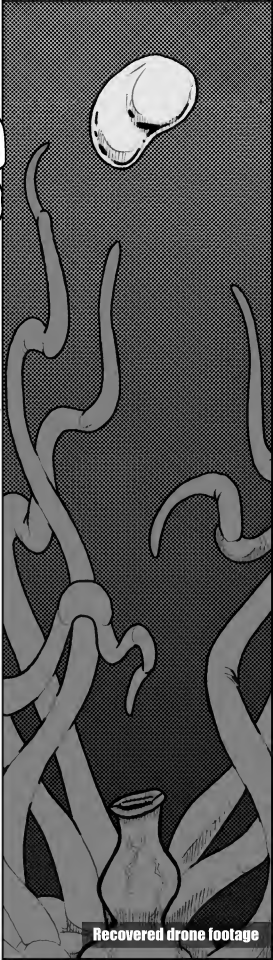
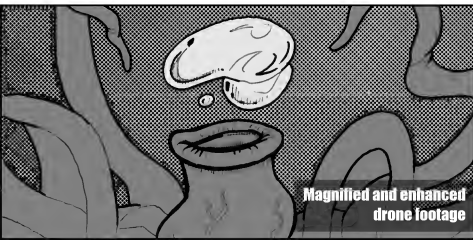
Recovered drone footage



...FEELZ
SO GOOD
GOING INTO
YOU...

ZZTT
POP!...

Recovered drone footage



Back on the RV Seagoon, things were not necessarily going well.



HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

THIRTEEN HOURS, PROFESSOR.

YOU'RE RUNNING EVERY POSSIBLE SWEEP?

NOTHING BUT CALM SEA OUT THERE.

After 48 hours, Professor Turpentine has concluded that their first attempt has failed.

NO SIGN OF A DETONATION AT ALL.

PERHAPS WE HAD THE CAPSULE SENSOR SETTING SET TOO LOW.



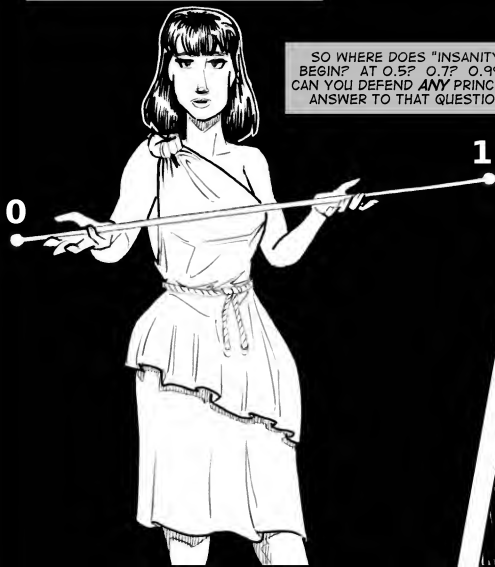


AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT? NO ONE WROTE ABOUT HOW THESE MEN WERE CRAZY UNSTABLE BITCHES WHO NEEDED TO BE STOPPED FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.





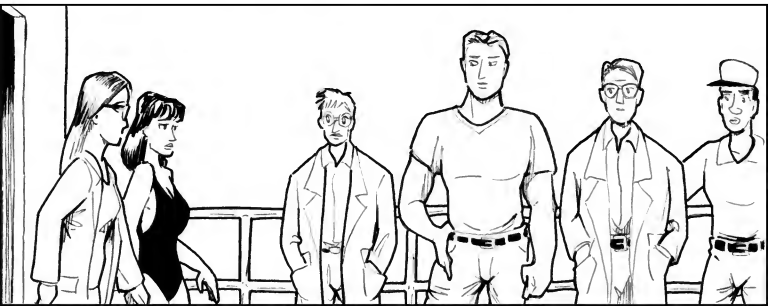
"CERTAINTY" ISN'T METAPHYSICALLY
SPECIAL. IT'S JUST THE ENDPOINT OF
A CONTINUUM OF PROBABILITIES.



SO WHERE DOES "INSANITY"
BEGIN? AT 0.5? 0.7? 0.999?
CAN YOU DEFEND ANY PRINCIPLED
ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION?

IF NOT, THEN SHUT UP
AND LET ME GET ON WITH
WHAT I NEED TO DO.







ZZT...HERE I AM OUT
HERE WONDERING...
RZZNNN... WHAT IT WILL
BE LIKE... KAPTİK...



Recovered drone footage

NRRG...
SHLTZ...
FOR ELIZA IT
LOOKED
AWESOME...BUT...
KIRRAZA...
JUST FIND IT
DISGUSTING...
SLZZZ...



Recovered drone footage

ZZZLTSLX...
GIVES ME
BUTTERFLIES IN
MY STOMACH...
KKRRR...
ZOT



Recovered drone footage

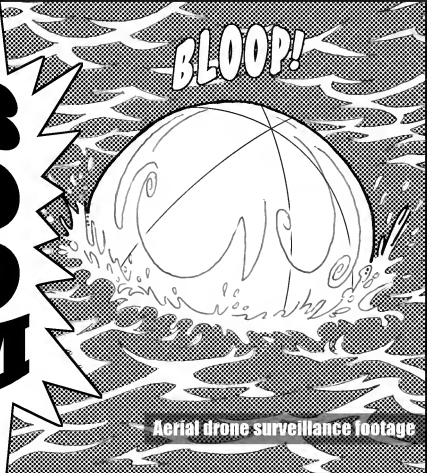
Magnified and enhanced
drone footage

...RRRG...
HEY I DON'T
FEEL SO GOOD...
BLLL



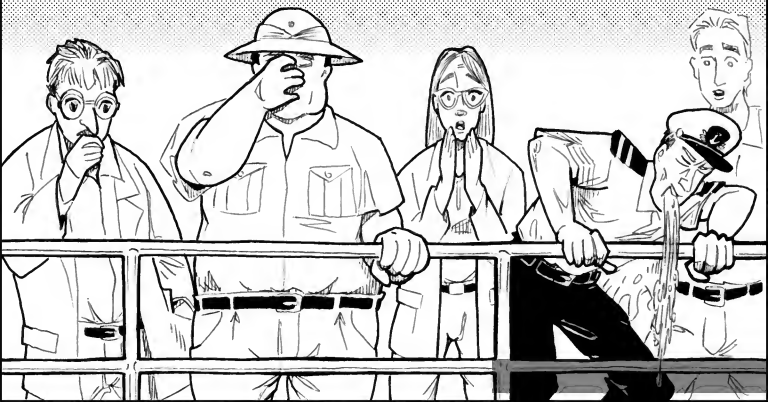


BOOM

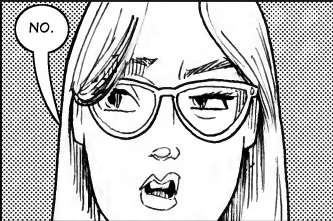


Aerial drone surveillance footage

Aerial drone surveillance footage









Professor Turpentine,
as expedition leader,
attempts to deal with the
crisis that has arisen.

DR. HONEYWOOD,
CAN WE SPEAK?

**KNOCK
KNOCK!**



LISTEN, I'VE TALKED WITH THE EXPEDITION
SPONSOR VIA SATELLITE PHONE. HE
UNDERSTANDS HOW CRITICAL YOU'VE
BECOME TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS
EXPEDITION, AND HE HAS SAID
HE'S WILLING TO RAISE THE
CHARITABLE DONATION TO
FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IF
YOU CAN... COOPERATE.



YOU CAN DO
A LOT OF GOOD IN THE
WORLD WITH FIVE MILLION
DOLLARS, CLAUDIA.



Internal surveillance video



AT THIS POINT,
THE EXPEDITION SIMPLY CANNOT
SUCCEED WITHOUT YOU. THERE JUST
ISN'T ANYONE ELSE WITH THE RIGHT...
ATTRIBUTES, AND IT WILL BE NINETEEN
MORE YEARS BEFORE ANYONE HAS
ANOTHER CHANCE.



IN RECOGNITION
OF WHAT WE'RE ASKING
OF YOU, THE SPECIES
WILL BE NAMED AFTER YOU.
GYNOPHAGOS HONEYWOODIAE.
HOW DOES THAT
SOUND?



Internal surveillance video

FUCK
OFF!



THINK
ABOUT IT.

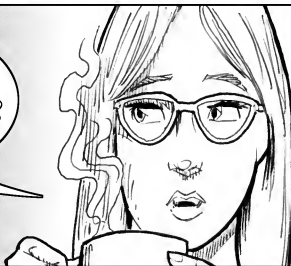
PLEASE.

After a few days' standoff
Claudia agreed to speak with us,
but not with the crew.



THE PROBLEM IS
THAT THEY'RE RIGHT.
ASIDE FROM THEIR TWO
VOLUNTEERS I'M THE ONLY
ONE THEY CAN ACCESS IN TIME.
THERE ARE OTHER WOMEN, BUT THEY
DON'T KNOW THE RIGHT PROTOCOLS.

THE THING IS,
THAT WHAT WILL BE
REMEMBERED WON'T BE
ANYONE ELSE'S FUCKUPS.
IT WILL BE THAT BITCH WHO
WOULDN'T PLAY BALL, AND
DISAPPOINTED A VERY
RICH MAN.



LIKE IT
OR NOT, THAT'S
HOW PEOPLE WILL
SEE IT.



I'LL BE BLACKBALLED EVERYWHERE. MY HARD EARNED CAREER IN SCIENCE WILL BE OVER.

RESEARCH LABORATORY

THAT'S HOW THINGS WORK, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE LATEST... ADMINISTRATION.



AND WHILE I MIGHT NOT HAVE DAPHNE BOSSESEGG'S HEROIC ATTITUDE ABOUT SUCH MATTERS, JUST LIKE HER I AM SURE I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN SPEND A LIFETIME Eeking OUT A LIVING IN THE 21ST CENTURY SERVICE ECONOMY.



YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY THINKING OF GIVING IN TO THEM, ARE YOU?

WELL, WHY NOT?

FEED LOTS OF HUNGRY CHILDREN, BUY LOTS OF MOSQUITO NETS, GET MY NAME ON AN ELDRITCH HORROR...

AND GET TO GO OUT WITH A REAL BANG.



Within a few hours the arrangements are made.

Claudia writes a last letter to her academic advisor, thanking her for her support.



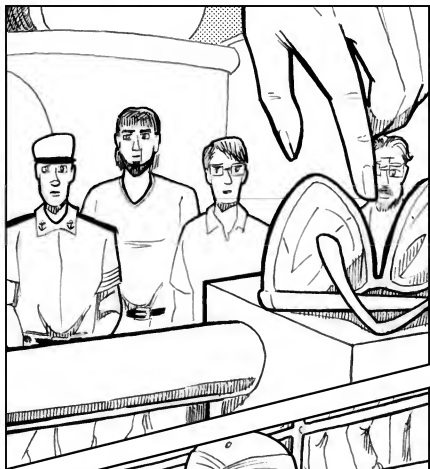
WE CANNOT EMPHASIZE ENOUGH HOW MUCH YOUR SACRIFICE IS APPRECIATED, DR. HONEYWOOD...

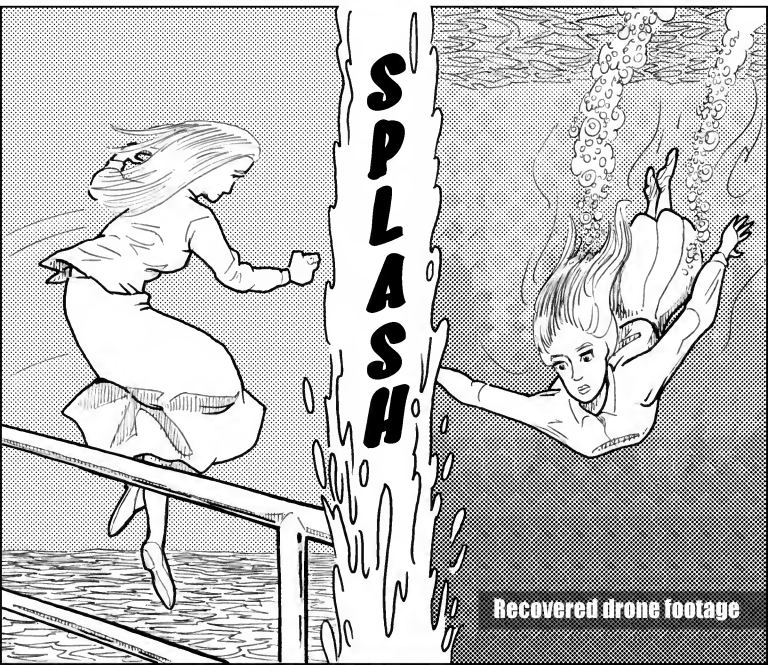
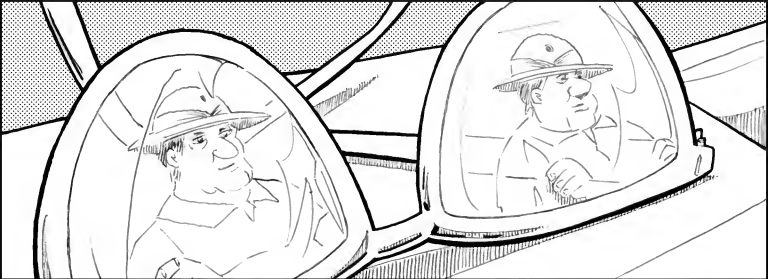
KINDLY GO FUCK YOURSELF, EUSTACE.



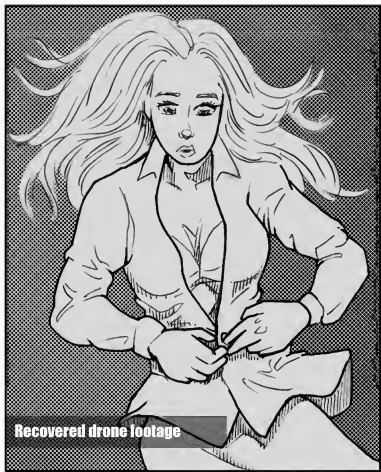
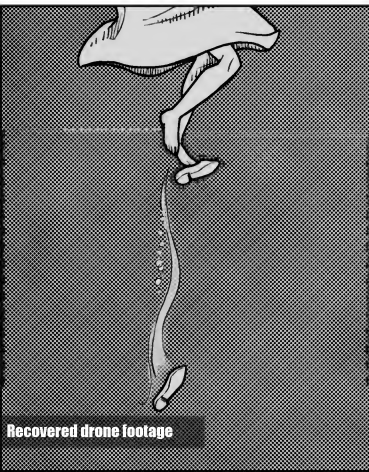
YOU ALL ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GET YOUR PEEP SHOW SOMEWHERE ELSE TODAY.





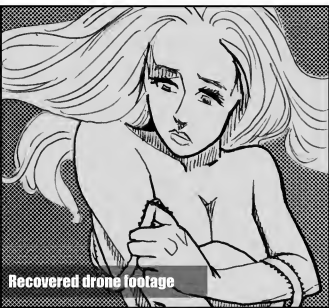


Recovered drone footage

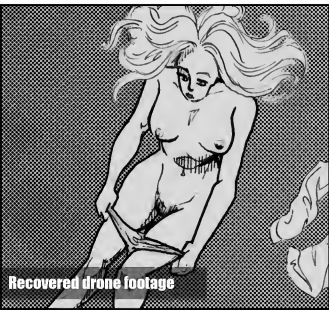




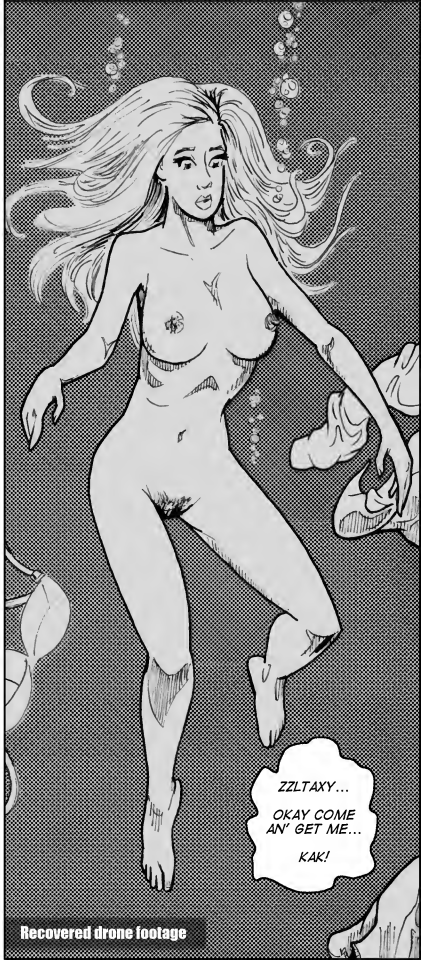
Recovered drone footage



Recovered drone footage



Recovered drone footage



ZZLTAXY...
OKAY COME
AN' GET ME...
KAK!

Recovered drone footage

OH!..
ZATS...
POP!

Recovered drone footage

FWWEEEEZZ...

OH...
OH...
OH...

Recovered drone footage

Recovered drone footage

ZZZZZZ....

OOOHHHH....

...SSHSHT...

IS BEST SEX...

POP!

...EVER HAD...

Recovered drone footage

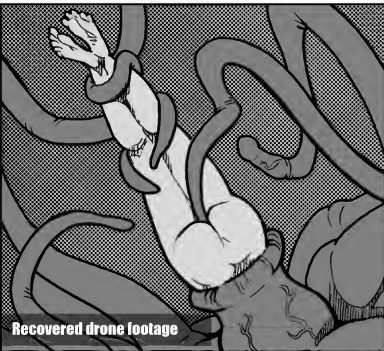


Magnified and enhanced drone footage

Recovered drone footage



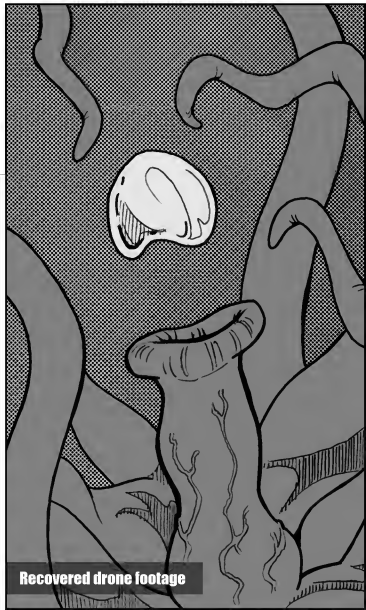
Recovered drone footage

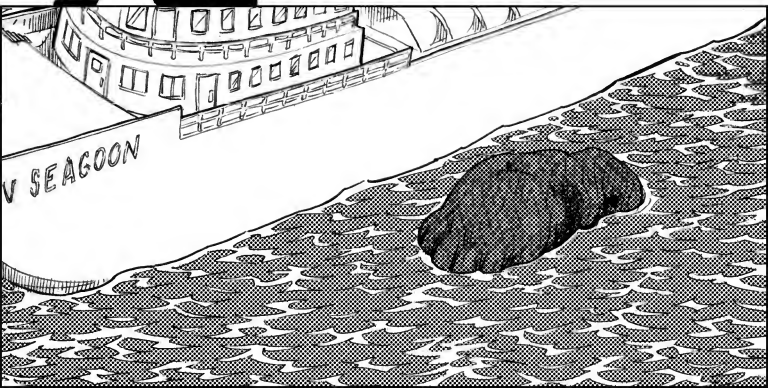
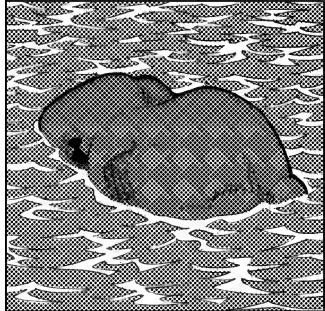


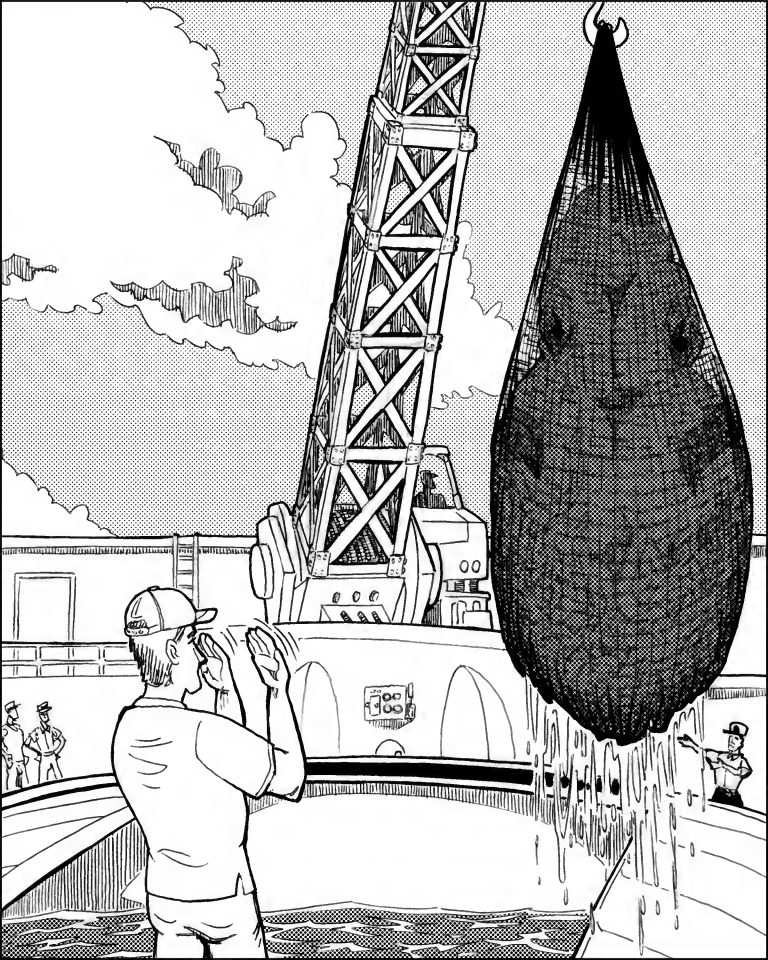
Recovered drone footage



Recovered drone footage



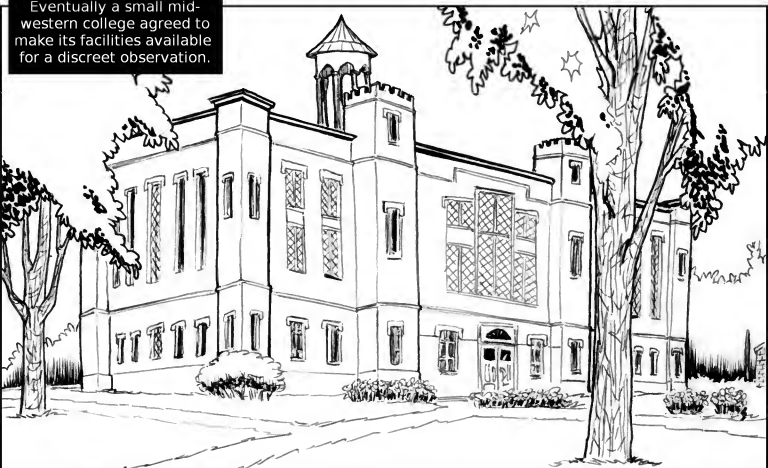







The appearance of angry protesters complicated arrangements for a memorial for Eliza, Daphne, and Claudia.

Eventually a small mid-western college agreed to make its facilities available for a discreet observation.

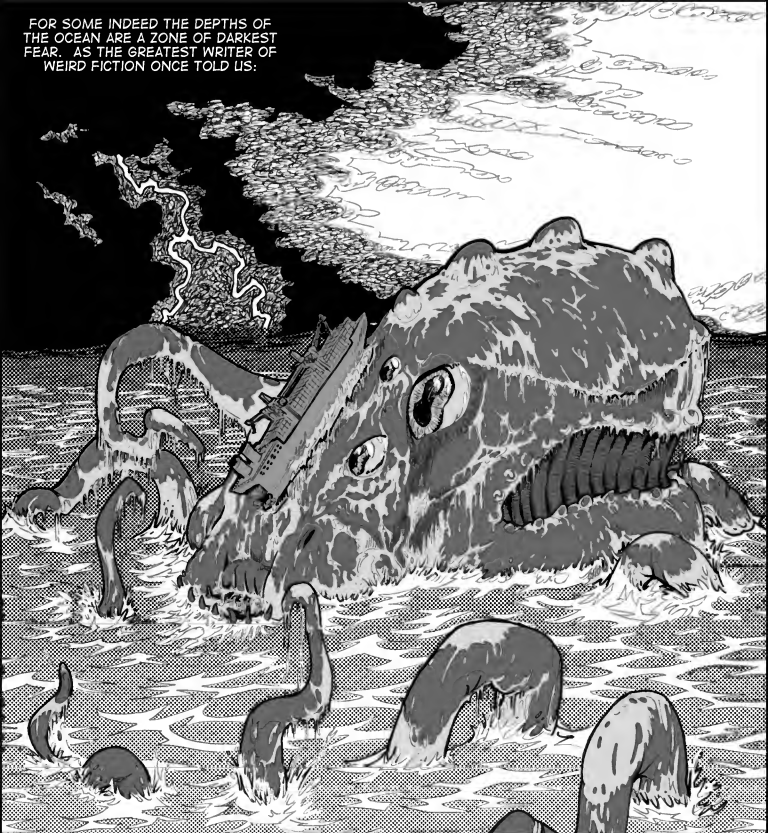




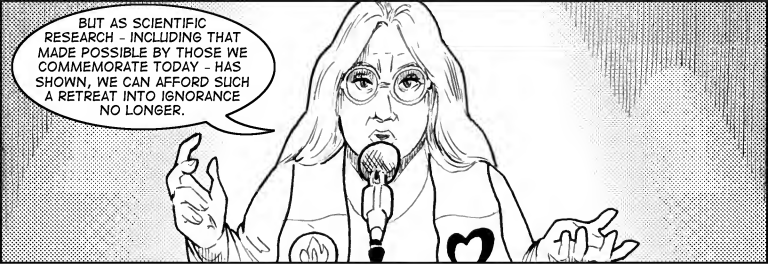
THE DEPTHS
OF SEAS HAVE ALWAYS
INSPIRED A SENSE OF AWE.
MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO,
LONGFELLOW WROTE:

"WOULD'ST THOU,"
—SO THE HELMSMAN ANSWERED,
"LEARN THE SECRET OF THE SEA?
ONLY THOSE WHO BRAVE ITS DANGERS
COMPREHEND ITS MYSTERY!"


FOR SOME INDEED THE DEPTHS OF
THE OCEAN ARE A ZONE OF DARKEST
FEAR. AS THE GREATEST WRITER OF
WEIRD FICTION ONCE TOLD US:



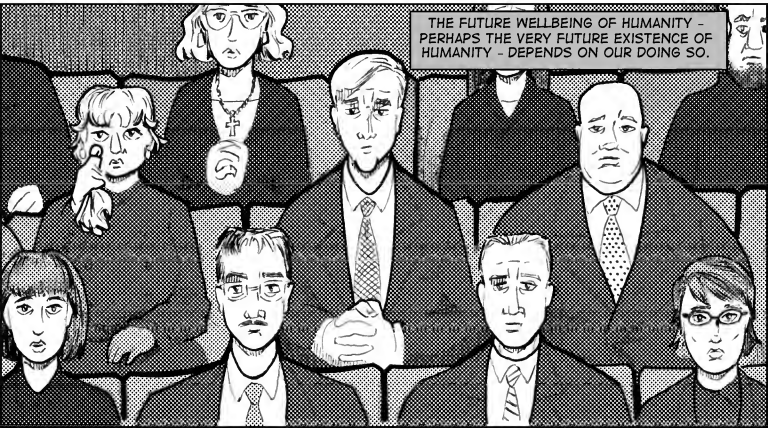
"THE MOST MERCIFUL THING IN THE WORLD, I THINK, IS THE INABILITY OF THE HUMAN MIND TO CORRELATE ALL ITS CONTENTS. WE LIVE ON A PLACID ISLAND OF IGNORANCE IN THE MIDST OF BLACK SEAS OF INFINITY, AND IT WAS NOT MEANT THAT WE SHOULD VOYAGE FAR. THE SCIENCES, EACH STRAINING IN ITS OWN DIRECTION, HAVE HITHERTO HARMED US LITTLE; BUT SOME DAY THE PIECING TOGETHER OF DISSOCIATED KNOWLEDGE WILL OPEN UP SUCH TERRIFYING VISTAS OF REALITY, AND OF OUR FRIGHTFUL POSITION THEREIN, THAT WE SHALL EITHER GO MAD FROM THE REVELATION OR FLEE FROM THE DEADLY LIGHT INTO THE PEACE AND SAFETY OF A NEW DARK AGE."



BUT AS SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH - INCLUDING THAT
MADE POSSIBLE BY THOSE WE
COMMEMORATE TODAY - HAS
SHOWN, WE CAN AFFORD SUCH
A RETREAT INTO IGNORANCE
NO LONGER.



THE OCEANIC DEPTHS CONTAIN
THINGS FAR BEYOND ANY OF OUR
PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDINGS.



THE FUTURE WELLBEING OF HUMANITY -
PERHAPS THE VERY FUTURE EXISTENCE OF
HUMANITY - DEPENDS ON OUR DOING SO.

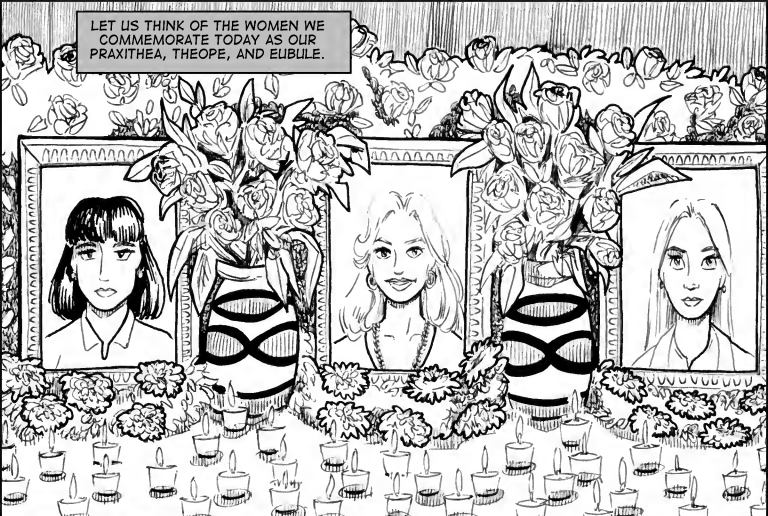
IN GREEK LEGEND, THE THREE DAUGHTERS OF LEOS, PRAXITHEA, THEOPE, AND EUBULE, VOLUNTEERED THEMSELVES FOR SACRIFICE WHEN THE DELPHIC ORACLE PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER WAY TO SAVE THE CITY OF ATHENS.

WERE THEIR SACRIFICES REGARDED AS TRAGEDY, STUPIDITY, OR WASTE? FAR FROM IT. DEMOSTHENES HIMSELF, IN HIS FUNERAL ORATION, COMPARED THEM TO THE BRAVEST OF SOLDIERS WHO FELL DEFENDING THEIR CITY.

ὅτε δὴ γυναῖκες ἐκείναι
τοιαύτην ἔσχον ἀνδρείαν, οὐ
θεμιτὸν αὐτοῖς ὑπελάβανον
χεῖροσιν ἀνδράσιν οὐσιν
ἐκείνων φανῆναι.

"WHEN, THEREFORE, SUCH COURAGE WAS DISPLAYED BY THOSE WOMEN, THEY LOOKED UPON IT AS A HEINOUS THING IF THEY, BEING MEN, SHOULD HAVE PROVED TO POSSESS LESS OF MANHOOD."

LET US THINK OF THE WOMEN WE
COMMEMORATE TODAY AS OUR
PRAXITHEA, THEOPE, AND EUBULE.



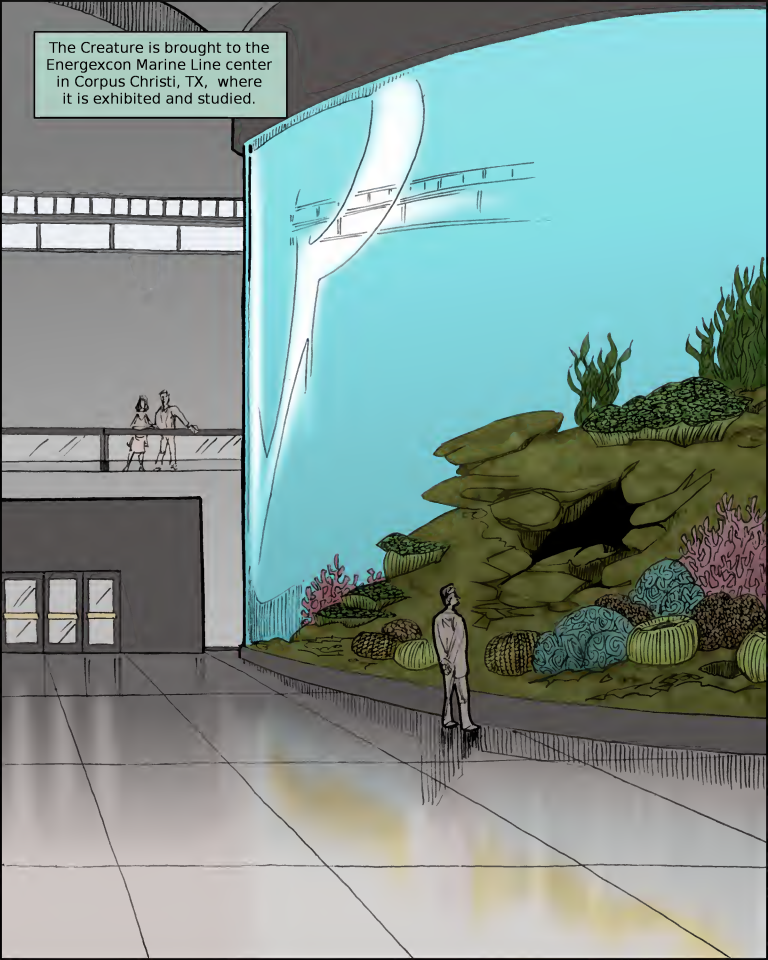
LET US HONOR AND NOT
DISDAIN THEIR SACRIFICES.

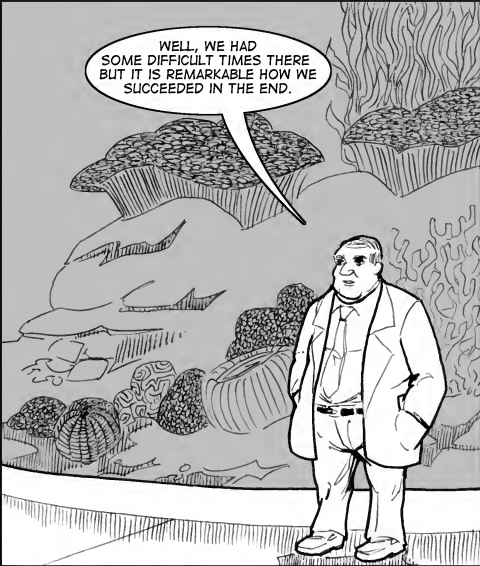


FOR IS
THAT NOT
WHAT HUMAN
DECENCY
REALLY
REQUIRES?




The Creature is brought to the Energexcon Marine Line center in Corpus Christi, TX, where it is exhibited and studied.

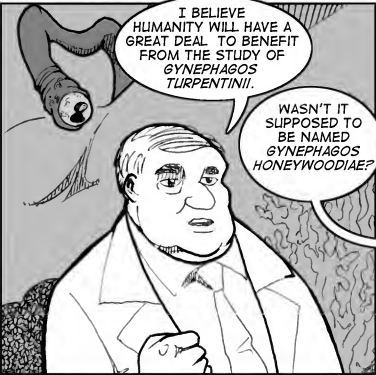




WELL, WE HAD
SOME DIFFICULT TIMES THERE
BUT IT IS REMARKABLE HOW WE
SUCCEEDED IN THE END.



WE'LL STUDY THE
CREATURE AND FIND OUT WHAT
MAKES IT TICK, BUT I'D SAY THAT
IT'S WOMAN EATING DAYS
ARE OVER.



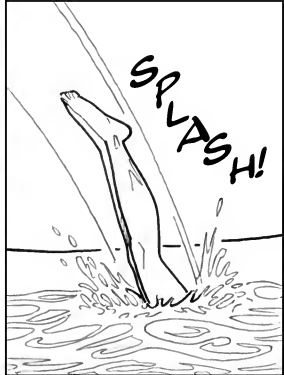
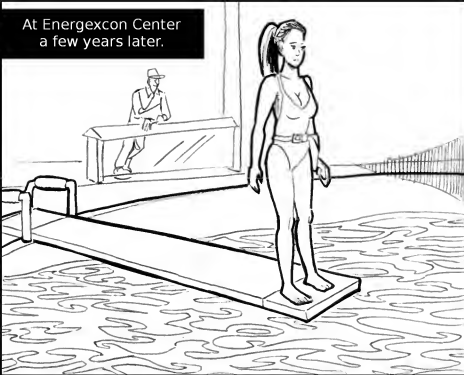
I BELIEVE
HUMANITY WILL HAVE A
GREAT DEAL TO BENEFIT
FROM THE STUDY OF
GYNEPHAGOS
TURPENTINII.

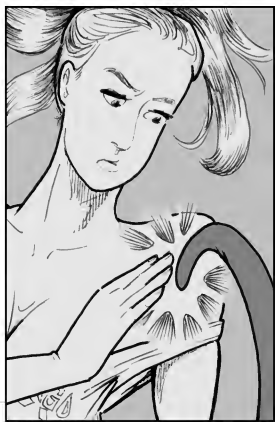
WASN'T IT
SUPPOSED TO
BE NAMED
GYNEPHAGOS
HONEYWOODIAE?

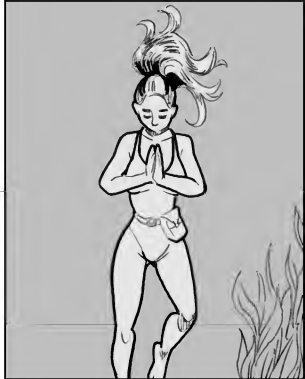


I'M SORRY, BUT
I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION
OF THAT.

At Energexcon Center
a few years later.







私は海事センターでショーを演じるために、私の県出身の別の若い女性と一緒に雇われました。

I was hired along with other young women from my prefecture to put on shows at the Maritime Center.

NO
JANUARY 1972
PERSONNEL
FROM THE OFFICE

私たちはみな、海女(真珠貝を採る女性潜水士)の村の出身なので、水中で働く素晴らしい伝統があります。

Chiba Moe,
Marine Center show worker

We are all from villages of ama (women pearl divers), so we have a great tradition of working underwater.

私たちのグループがあり、餌やりショーを行うために、一緒に働いています。とても人気です。

NRG

私は本当に自分の仕事が好きです。

There is a group of us, we work together to put on feeding shows. They're very popular.

I really like my job.

あなたがやった
このようなショーは、あなたが
唯一担当しているもので
すか？

いいえ、
他にもありま
す。

Are shows like the
one you just did the
only ones you do?

No, there
are others.



時々、海事センター
の一般客向けの公
開が終わった後に...

Sometimes,
after the
Marine Center
closes to the
general
public...



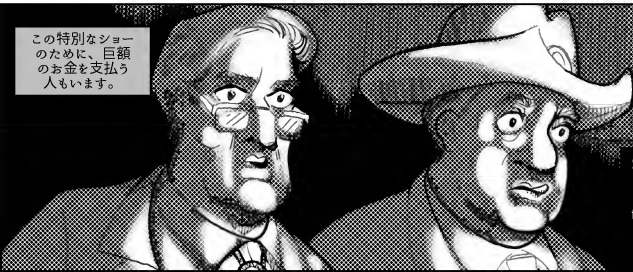
...裕福な寄
付者のた
めに、非
常に特別
なショーを
行うことが
あります。


...we put on some
very special shows
for wealthy donors.



この特別なショー
のために、巨額
のお金を支払う
人もいます。

Some people
pay huge
amounts for
these special
shows.





私からは観客が見えないので、例えプライベートなものでなくても、そんな風に感じます。それにセックスは本当に最高です。男性のことなど、ほとんど忘れてしまっていました。

I can't see the audience, so it feels private even if it isn't. And the sex is truly amazing. I've almost forgotten about men.

食べられないかと、
怖くありませんか？

You're not afraid
of being eaten?

いいえ、
その対策はされ
ています。

No, they've
taken care
of that.

何ヶ月もずっとと彼
の近くにいると、
彼の気持ちがわか
ってくるのです。

They put
some sort of
collar on his
feeding
siphon. No
more girls
for him.

それは安心ですね。

That must
make you feel
relieved.

実際には、
悲しい気持
ちになります。
す。

Actually, it makes
me feel sad.

何ヶ月もずっと彼の近くにいると、彼の気持ちがわかってくるのです。

Having been close to him for all these months, I feel that I can feel what he feels.

彼は悲しい、とてもお腹が空いたと思っています。私のことを食い尽くしたいと思っています。

And what he feels is sad and very hungry. He wants to eat me so very badly.

彼には本当に申し訳なく思っています。

I feel so sorry for him.

彼に自分を食べさせてやりたい、もし許されるなら、彼に食べてもらいたいと思っています。

I would let him eat me, if they would let me let him eat me.

本気で言っているとは思えません!

You can't be serious!

どうしてですか?

Why not?

思いやりの心に従って行動できないのなら、我々は生きるに値しません。

だって...

But...

本当に単純なことです。

It is really very simple.

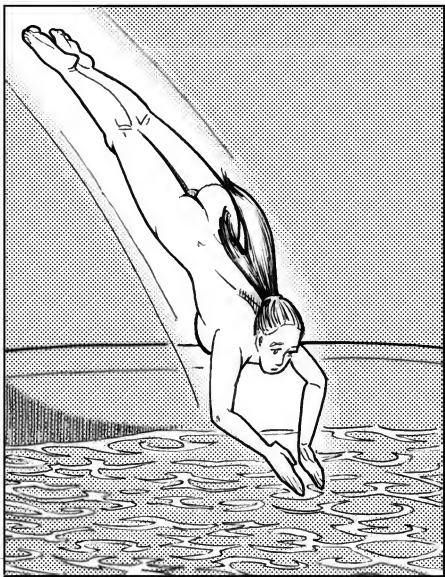
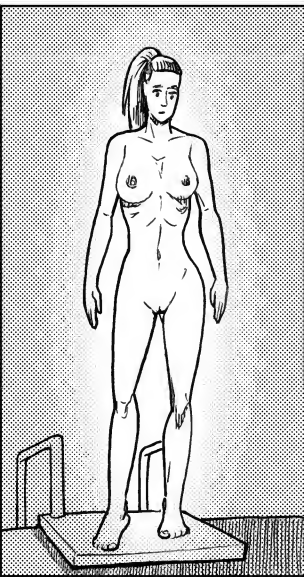
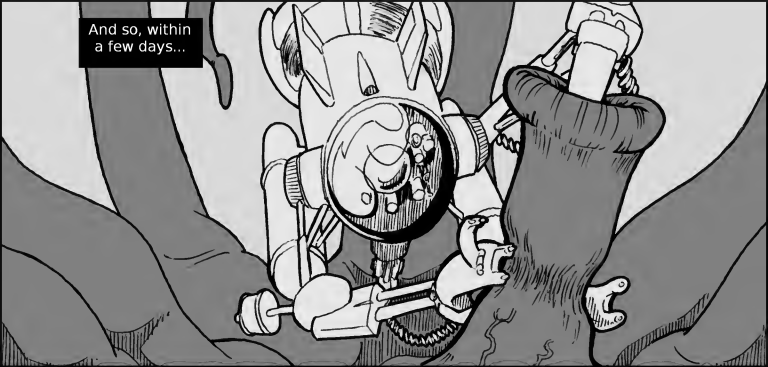
If we cannot act on compassion, then we do not deserve to live.

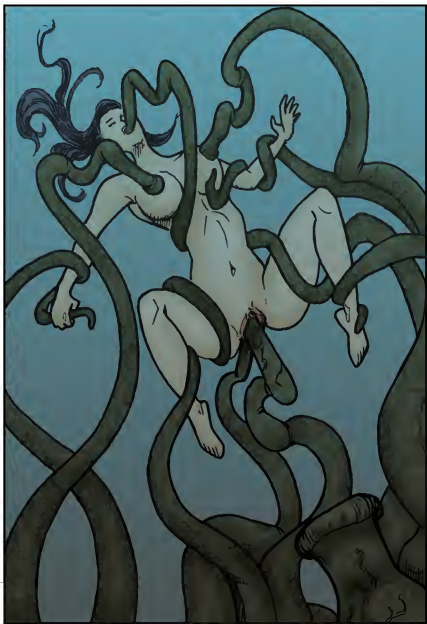
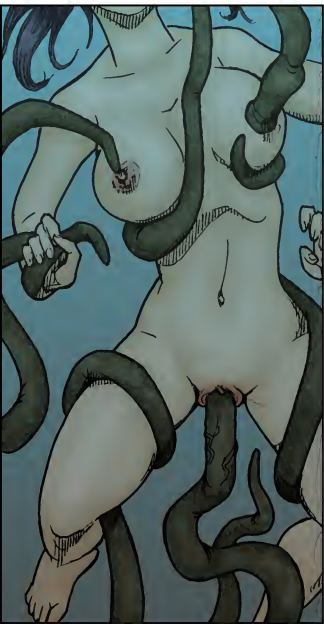
SPLASH

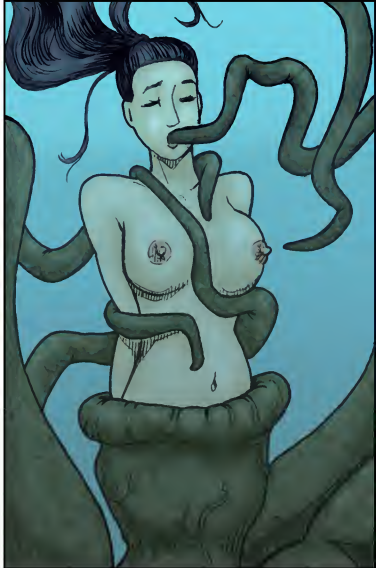
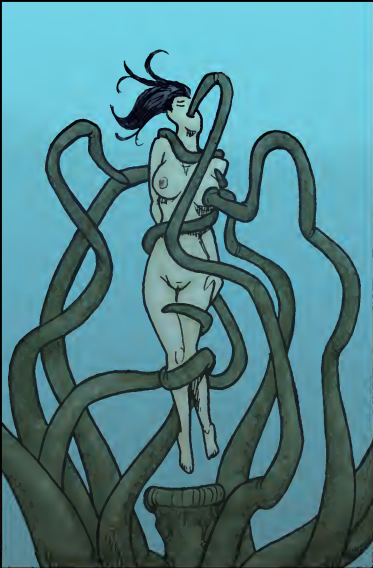
A few days later, Chiba received a special delivery letter.

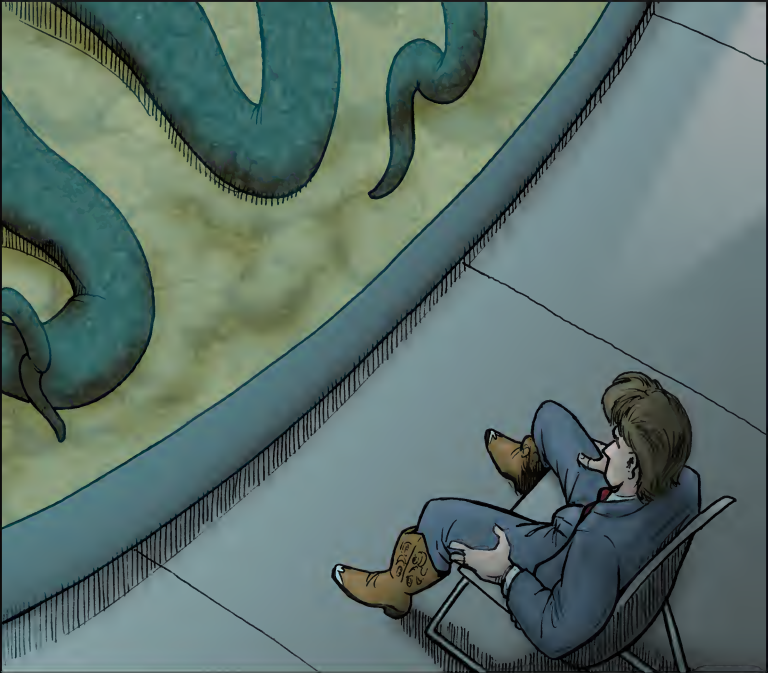


And so, within
a few days...





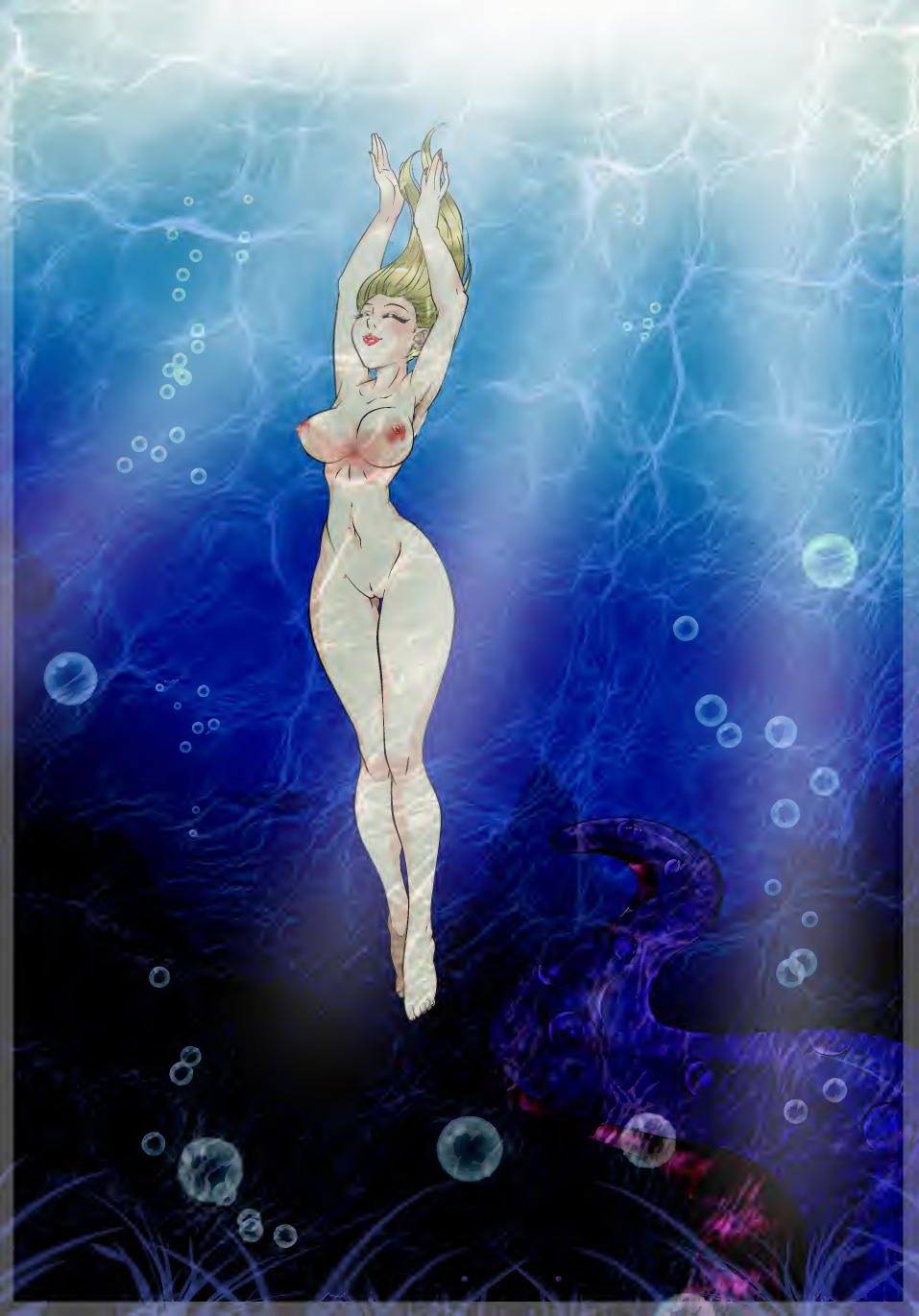




The End.





















Art by [signature]



